MIDLAND REPORTER-TELEGRAM

TUESDAY, JANUARY 24, 2017 mrt★com *235,000 readers in print and online monthly*

LEACH TO TAMU

Concho's Tim Leach picked as Texas A&M system regent.

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ONLINE TODAY

- Chick-fil-A is moving closer to building its fourth location, this one at the corner of Loop 250 and Andrews Highway
- MPO talks about one-way service roads on I-20

mrt.com

MISD board picks superintendent search firm

By Stewart Doreen
sdoreen@mrt.com

The Midland ISD school board, by a 4-3 vote, selected the search firm Hazard, Young, Attea & Associates of Schamburg, Illinois, to lead the hunt for a new superintendent.

The race came down to Hazard, Young, Attea & Associates and Ray and Associates Inc. of Cedar Rapids, Iowa. While Ray talked more specifically about current reform processes currently taking place inside the school district, the board picked Hazard, whose recent successes included Eanes ISD (Austin Westlake), Fort Bend ISD, Humble ISD, Round Rock ISD and Houston ISD.

Hazard officials mentioned Fort Bend and Humble as turnaround situations.

It is the Houston ISD search that might send the biggest message to those inside Midland about the direction of its school district. Houston ISD hired Richard Carranza during its recent search. Carranza was acknowledged in the making of the Lone Star Governance report, which stresses — among other things — the theories of action. The Midland ISD board and administration staff recently worked to incorporate those theories of action into their long-term district goals. The next superintendent will be expected to use those goals as a framework moving forward.

So while Ray and Associates officials could talk about theories of action concepts, it was Hazard that has delivered.

The decision wasn't reached without a split in the board. Board President Rick Davis, Karen Nicholson, John Kennedy and Bryan Murry all supported Hazard and voted down an attempt by James Fuller, Robert Marquez and Tommy Bishop to select Ray and Associates (3 to 4) before a motion was made to select Hazard.

"I hope the community is as excited as I am that we have a firm like Hazard that has a proven track record of conducting nationwide searches and placing superintendents all over the nation, including Texas," Davis said. "If I was a member of the community, I would be excited to see they really are not going to limit themselves to any particular area or region or state. This board is committed to transforming this district."

Hazard, Young, Attea & Associates is expected to build a profile for the next superintendent and will do so using community input. There will be a website where people can fill out an online survey.

Rick Berry, senior associate with HYA, said during the firm's presentation that they will be looking for candidates who have a track record of building a system like the one Midland ISD has identified.

"This is the most important decision you will make as a school board member," Berry said. "We want to do such a good job that we make that final decision hard for you."

Plans for downtown



Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram

The downtown area of Centennial Plaza and the former courthouse are still vacant Monday.

Midland Center final price, Hotel Santa Rita on council agenda

From staff reports

Downtown will be heavily represented on today's Midland City Council agenda.

The council will vote on the approval of plans and specifications and accept a guaranteed maximum price of $33,132 million from Lee Lewis Construction for the construction of the Midland Convention Center, according to the council agenda. The City Council also will decide to approve a total project cost of $42.839 million.

In July, the City Council moved forward on the development of the Midland Convention Center, a 74,000-square-foot downtown facility that will include 20,000 square feet of convention space and a 6,000-square-foot ballroom.

The total project cost includes utility relocation ($1.8 million), demolition ($700,000), "fees and miscellaneous" ($3.2 million) and paying the Midland Chamber of Commerce $1.7 million for the remaining years of its lease, according to previous Reporter-Telegram articles.

The facility will be paid for with hotel-motel tax funding, and according to city officials, would not impact property taxes. In July, city officials said $12 million will come from the hotel-motel fund and the city would finance the remaining $30 million-plus over 25 years.

Another step in the project will take place today as the City Council will vote to approve a resolution

Please see AGENDA/4A

Midland County deputies make debut on cable TV show

From staff reports

Deputies with the Midland County Sheriff's Office got a few minutes of national television time Friday night when the department was featured on A&E's "Live PD."

The documentary series was launched this fall to "offer viewers unfettered and unfiltered live access inside the country's busiest police forces," according to the network. The three-hour television show is broadcast live 8 to 11 p.m. (CDT) Fridays and showcases a variety of police, sheriff's and highway patrol departments from throughout the U.S.

Midland County Sheriff Gary Painter said he expects Midland County Sheriff's Office personnel to be part of the program for the next eight weeks.

Departments featured this season include the Tulsa Police Department's Gang Unit, Bridgeport Connecticut Police Department, Walton County Sheriff's Office in Florida, Richland County Sheriff's Department in South Carolina, Arizona Department of Public Safety and Utah Highway Patrol.

Friday's episode introduced Midland as a new department to be profiled, though little was happening in the county to warrant much coverage during the three-hour broadcast.

Painter said he met John Bunnell, who is involved in the show's production at a national law enforcement conference several years ago. Bunnell, who is known for hosting "World Wildest Police Videos," contacted Painter recently to have Midland County staff participate in the show.

"It lets the citizens know what we do and lets them see everything that happens in live time," Painter said. "That is a good idea."

Painter said two vehicles are equipped

Please see DEPUTIES/4A

MDC seeks to help small businesses grow

- Board looks to partner with SBDC at UTPB

By Trevor Hawes
thawes@mrt.com

Midland Development Corp. wants to put more of its Type 4A sales tax money toward aiding small businesses, and it's looking to partner with the Small Business Development Center at the University of Texas of the Permian Basin for help.

SBDC Regional Director Enrique Romero on Monday presented a preliminary plan to the MDC board to start a business plan competition that would enable small businesses in Midland get funding and the help they need to grow.

Applicants must meet a number of criteria and go through a judging process that would include the MDC. Funding projections, minus administration fees, would be $250,000 for fiscal year 2017. Four to five businesses would receive $50,000 to $75,000 apiece. Funding would be provided by the MDC.

The projection increases to $350,000 in FY 2017 and $500,000 in FY 2019.

The competition isn't for everyone, Romero said, because of a big requirement 50 percent of the company's sales must come from outside the Midland area in the third year after receiving funds. There will be provisions to have the funding returned if the business fails to meet this or other criteria, such as not moving within four years.

The program is available to the entire community. Board Chairman Brent Hilliard said the MDC is fully behind the program and that he's "certainly excited to see where this goes."

Program plans will have to be finalized before the board votes. MDC board member Keith Stretcher suggested initially contracting with the SBDC for a 12-month period so the development corporation can evaluate the program's success.

According to statistics on the UTPB SBDC website, the nonprofit has created 947 new jobs through the opening of 234 new businesses. More than 1,700 clients have been counseled.

In other MDC business:

- **Basin PBS deadline:** The MDC board voted unanimously to extend its deadline with Permian Basin Public Telecommunications, which operates Basin PBS, as it pertains to the completion of the Ritz Theater renovation project.

Please see MDC/4A



Weather
Partly sunny
63/33
Get your complete forecast on 5B

Energy prices

WTI Futures	$52.75	▼ $0.47
WTI Posted	$49.00	– $0.00
WTB Posted	$44.85	– $0.00
Natural Gas	$3.243	▲ $0.039
Gasoline	$2.137	▼ $0.010

The big number
There are
515,000 kids
left malnourished because of Boko Haram. Page 8A

Word of the Day: perpetrator
Do you know what it means? Find out the definition on Page 3A.

Brought to you daily by Jimmy Burrito

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Supreme Court rejects Texas voter ID appeal — for now

By Jim Malewitz
Texas Tribune

The U.S. Supreme Court on Monday declined to take up Texas' effort salvage its strict voter identification law, handing at least a temporary victory to civil rights advocates who have successfully argued that the law discriminates against minorities.

But Chief Justice John Roberts said Texas could later try another appeal — after a lower court rules whether the state lawmakers discriminated on purpose when they passed the law in 2011.

"Petitioners may raise either or both issues again after entry of final judgment," Roberts wrote Monday.

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton said he was "disappointed" that the high court would not immediately hear the case. But, he added in a statement, Roberts made it "very clear" that an appeal request would be "even stronger" after the lower court resolves lingering questions.

The court's decision comes as voting rights experts are waiting to see if President Donald Trump's administration will reverse the federal government's opposition to the Texas law.

Last July, the U.S. 5th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that Texas' 2011 voter ID law discriminated against minority groups, who were less likely to possess one of seven accepted types of identification. Those include: a state driver's license or ID card, a concealed handgun license, a U.S. passport, a military ID card, a U.S citizenship certificate or an election identification certificate.

The Texas law violated the federal Voting Rights Act, the appeals court ruled. That court did not wholly strike down the law, but ordered a lower court judge — Nelva Gonzales Ramos, of Corpus Christi — to draw up a temporary fix for last year's elections.

She temporarily softened the rules, allowing folks without photo identification to vote if they presented an alternate form of ID and signed a form swearing a "reasonable impediment" kept them from obtaining identification.

The appeals court also told Ramos, who previously ruled that Texas intentionally discriminated in drawing up the law, to reweigh the evidence on that question.

Experts have testified that more than 600,000 Texans lacked identification required by the 2011 law, though not all of them have necessarily tried to vote.

Texas officials say the voter ID law bolsters the integrity of elections by preventing voter fraud, which Gov. Greg Abbott has called "rampant." But the U.S. Department of Justice (under President Obama) and other plaintiffs — backed by court rulings — have pointed out that in-person voter fraud is incredibly rare.

Texas had spent about $3.5 million litigating the case as of last April.

"We will continue to fight for the law in the district court, the Fifth Circuit, and if necessary, the Supreme Court again," Paxton said Monday.

Obituaries



Virginia Smith Johnson

Virginia Smith Johnson ran into the arms of Jesus, our Heavenly Father, Friday, January 20, 2017.

Virginia was born April 4, 1932 in Kennett, Missouri to James and Edyth Kimbrell. Virginia was married to the love of her life, Jerry Dale Smith, until his passing in 1984. She was a loving mother to nine children, Linda Laird, Syndi Calhoun, and James Allen Richardson and Robert Strickland, all of Midland, David Strickland of Houston, and Christy Stowe of Brownwood. She is also survived by 19 grandkids and 31 great-grandkids.

She was preceded in death by three of her children, Larry Richardson, Diane Richardson, and Billy Strickland; her parents; and by five brothers and four sisters.

The family will receive friends from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 24, 2017 at Gilbreath Funeral Home in Stanton.

Graveside services will be 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 25, 2017 at the Evergreen Cemetery Chapel in Stanton, with Pastor Bob Miller and Pastor Mike Hanks officiating.

Arrangements are under the direction of Gilbreath Funeral Home of Stanton. Online condolences may be made at *www.npwelch.com*.

Gilbreath Funeral Home

Death Notices

Ilene Beverly Pitts Kistrup

Ilene Beverly Pitts Kistrup, 95, passed away Sunday, January 22, 2017.

Funeral services will be held at a later date at St. Augustine's Episcopal Church in Metairie, Louisiana.

Beverly is survived by a son, Bruce Kistrup; and a daughter, Karen Vest.

Ronnie H. (Ron) Westbrook

Ronnie H. (Ron) Westbrook passed away January 21, 2017.

As you may know, Ron was a really private person; his wishes were for family, coworkers, and personal friends to attend his memorial services at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, January 26, 2017 at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Chapel in Midland. A visitation will follow at The Branch at NPW.

Survivors include wife, Merlyn Westbrook; sons, Jim Westbrook, Derek Westbrook, and Don Westbrook; and stepdaughters, Laci Cruz and Lindsey Stark.

Police: 'Good Samaritan' shot robber who had killed man

By Juan A. Lozano
Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — A "good Samaritan" shot and wounded an armed robber at a San Antonio mall after another man was killed while confronting two people who had just held up a jewelry store, a police spokesman said Monday.

The licensed concealed handgun holder, whose name has not been released by authorities, believed other people were in danger and was within his rights to use his gun following the Sunday robbery, said San Antonio police spokesman Officer Doug Greene. The wounded suspect was hospitalized in critical condition Monday; the second suspect, who shot and wounded two people in the Rolling Oaks Mall while running away, was captured later Sunday.

Police described both men who tried to intervene as "good Samaritans." Greene said the men did not know each other.

The man who was killed was identified by the Bexar County Medical Examiner's Office as 42-year-old Jonathan Murphy. He was unarmed but nonetheless tried to stop the robbers outside the jewelry store, according to Greene, who didn't immediately know how Murphy tried to stop them or whether there was a physical altercation before Murphy was shot.

The man with the concealed handgun saw the shooting and fired multiple times at the robber who had shot Murphy, Greene said.

Murphy had been at the jewelry store with his wife to get their wedding rings cleaned, said family friend Chris Cercone. He believes Murphy, who managed sales at a local car dealership and lived in nearby Cibolo, was looking out for the safety of his wife and others at the store when he confronted the robbers.

"John always looked out for his family, and he'd do anything to protect his family and others. And I believe that cost him his life," said Cercone, who is an attorney in San Francisco and is dating Murphy's stepdaughter.

Murphy "was a protector in every sense of the word," said Cercone, who has set up a GoFundMe page for Murphy's family.

Police Chief William McManus called Murphy's death senseless "because it seems like the gentleman was trying to do the right thing," Greene said.

Asked whether people with concealed weapons should intervene in such situations, Greene said, "It really depends on that concealed handgun license holder, on how comfortable they feel, at what level do they think they need to respond."



Courtesy the Office of George H.W. Bush via AP

In this photo provided by Office of George H.W. Bush on Monday, former President George H.W. Bush and his wife Barbara pose for a photo at Houston Methodist Hospital in Houston. The 92-year-old former president is still suffering from pneumonia, but is well enough to leave the intensive care unit at a Houston hospital, doctors said Monday. His wife, Barbara, has been discharged from the same facility after completing treatment for bronchitis.

Bush ready to leave intensive care; wife Barbara goes home

By Michael Graczyk
Associated Press

HOUSTON — Former President George H.W. Bush is still suffering from pneumonia, but is well enough to leave the intensive care unit at a Houston hospital, doctors said Monday. His wife, Barbara, has been discharged from the same facility after completing treatment for bronchitis.

The 92-year-old former president was struggling to breathe when he was admitted to the Houston Methodist Hospital Jan. 14. Last week, he was breathing with the aid of a ventilator in the ICU, but doctors removed the breathing tube Friday and by Monday were talking about the possibility that he could return home soon.

Dr. Amy Mynderse said at a news conference that the former president is "sitting up, watching TV and is waiting anxiously for his favorite oyster stew for lunch."

"He's on minimal oxygen, joking and laughing with the nurses and doctors," she said.

Dr. Clint Doerr said Bush was still coughing "a fair amount" but that if he continues to improve, he could be discharged from the hospital by Friday or over the weekend.

"He's excited to get home, and he's feeling well," Mynderse said, describing Bush as "not your average 92-year-old."

Mynderse said when she told Bush he was being released from intensive care, he asked her: "Can I just go home?"

Meanwhile, former first lady Barbara Bush, 91, who was admitted to the facility for treatment of bronchitis Wednesday, is "back to her normal self," Mynderse said. Mrs. Bush was told she could return home Sunday, but she opted to stay one more night to fully recover and remain close to her husband, according to family spokesman Jim McGrath.

The couple's 72-year marriage is the longest of any presidential couple in U.S. history, and the doctors said they have been a great support to each other.

"They truly do have just such an amazing love for each other and that really came across here," Mynderse said, adding that Barbara Bush spent much her hospital stay by her husband's side.

"Part of why she ended up, I think, in the hospital was because even though she was ill, she was trying to be by his bedside all the time."

Doerr said: "They're essentially therapy for each other. They help and are compliant in terms of when one of them doesn't want to take a breathing treatment, the other says, 'Get on that.' It helps our cause."

Bush, who served as president from 1989 to 1993, has a form of Parkinson's disease and uses a motorized scooter or a wheelchair for mobility. He was hospitalized in 2015 in Maine after falling at his summer home and breaking a bone in his neck. He was also hospitalized in Houston the previous December for about a week for shortness of breath. He spent Christmas 2012 in intensive care for a bronchitis-related cough and other issues.

The former president and his wife appear to have touched the medical staff with their humility.

Mynderse told reporters that when she informed the former president she would be speaking at a news conference Monday, he replied: "About what?"

"I said, 'About you!' And he said, 'People want to know about me?'" she said.

"They're so humble. They truly are the most humble people," Mynderse said.

Texas governor warns Austin sheriff over 'sanctuary cities'

By Paul J. Weber
Associated Press

AUSTIN — Republican Gov. Greg Abbott on Monday told Austin's sheriff that her jail would become the first in the state to lose taxpayer money over so-called "sanctuary cities" policies unless she reverses plans to curtail working with federal immigration authorities by February.

President Donald Trump made similar vows as a candidate, declaring that his "Day One" priorities would include stopping all federal dollars to places where local officials rebuff federal agents and don't arrest or detain immigrants living in the country illegally. Several big cities, including New York and Chicago, already have formal sanctuary policies on the books.

Newly elected Travis County Sheriff Sally Hernandez on Friday — in a defiantly timed announcement after Trump was inaugurated — said starting Feb. 1 she would end her predecessor's policy of honoring all jail detainers sought by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Hernandez is a Democrat whose campaign in Texas' most liberal city partly ran on promises to change how detainers are handled.

Abbott, who attended Trump's inauguration, is now effectively threatening to carry out the president's promise on a state level. Abbott has previously warned local officials against adopting sanctuary policies but has not delivered such a direct ultimatum before now.

"Your unilateral decision will cost the people of Travis County money that was meant to protect them," Abbott wrote. He said funding would be lost by Feb. 1 unless the county changes course.

The only money Abbott has the power to cut off for now is criminal justice grants controlled by his office. Travis County received about $1.8 million of that grant money last year — about 1 percent of the sheriff department's budget.

Both Abbott and the Republican-controlled Texas Legislature are eager to pass new laws by summer that would impose tougher penalties over sanctuary policies.

A spokeswoman for Hernandez said she had no immediate comment on Abbott's letter, but in a video posted to YouTube last week, the sheriff said honoring all federal immigration detainers ties up her deputies and sows distrust between officers and county residents. Detainers are requested when federal immigration authorities, while reviewing jail records, raise concerns about whether a suspect is in the country legally and asks for them to remain jailed so their status can be investigated.

Critics contend that the system results in suspects making long stays in jails or being deported over minor crimes. Under Travis County's new policy, the jail will now only comply with detainers on murder, aggravated sexual assault and human trafficking charges. For other crimes, Hernandez said she would keep suspects jailed when there is a court order or judicial warrant issued.

"We cannot afford to make our community less safe by driving people in to the shadows," Hernandez said.

Abbott similarly threatened Dallas County in 2015 over how the local jail worked with federal immigration authorities. But he never gave a deadline then and ultimately never withheld any funding to Dallas jails.

Houston law enforcement officials could also ultimately test Abbott. Houston Police Chief Art Acevedo, who until last year was Austin's police chief, said this weekend he supports working with federal immigration agents over "hardened criminals" but not what he called "peaceful, law-abiding" residents.

"We don't have time to deal with economic immigrants," Acevedo said.

STATEBRIEFS

FROM STAFF REPORTS

MANVEL

Authorities: Marital dispute led to Texas killings, suicide

Authorities say a marital dispute led to a shooting in which a man wounded his wife and her sister and killed two other relatives before taking his own life at their Houston-area home.

The Brazoria County Sheriff's Office says 28-year-old Muhammad Hasan Nawazkhan died Sunday of a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

Lt. Varon Snelgrove on Monday said Nawazkhan and his wife, two of her sisters and the husband of one of the sisters all lived at the residence in Manvel.

EL PASO

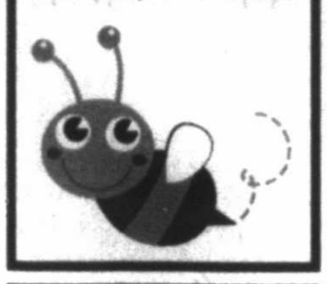
Man, 18, rescued after 25-foot fall from mountain

Emergency responders have rescued a climber who fell about 25 feet from a West Texas mountain and landed on a ledge.

An El Paso Fire Department statement says a rescue basket was used to transport the seriously injured 18-year-old man down from McKelligon Canyon late Sunday afternoon. The canyon is part of Franklin Mountains State Park.

Department spokesman Carlos Briano said Monday that two men had been hiking with two boys — ages 11 and 12 — when one of the men fell. The other man called 911 and met emergency personnel as the boys stayed with the injured climber.

WORD OF THE DAY
brought to you daily by
JimBurrito
perpetrator
[pur-pi-trey-ter]
noun
1. a person who perpetrates, or commits, an illegal, criminal, or evil act.



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MAIN SWITCHBOARD
432-682-5311

PUBLISHER
Jeffrey Shabram 687-8880
jshabram@mrt.com

NEWSROOM
■ EDITOR
Stewart Doreen 687-8856
sdoreen@mrt.com
■ MANAGING EDITOR
Mary Dearen 687-8852
mdearen@mrt.com
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thawes@mrt.com
■ NEWS EDITOR
John Tee 687-8862
jtee@mrt.com
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■ OIL EDITOR
Mella McEwen 687-8860
mmcewen@mrt.com
■ PHOTO EDITOR
Tim Fischer 687-8833
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sheckler@mrt.com

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■ SALES MANAGER
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cranderson@mrt.com

RETAIL ADS
682-5311, ext. 4

CLASSIFIED ADS
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mrtclassified@mrt.com

PRODUCTION
■ DIRECTOR
John Maddox 687-8844
jmaddox@mrt.com

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OPEC, friends agree on way to monitor oil cut

By Grant Smith, Angelina Rascouet and Anna Shiryaevskaya
Bloomberg

OPEC and other oil producers agreed on a way to monitor their compliance with last month's historic supply deal, putting global markets on track to re-balance after more than two years of oversupply.

The countries have already cut oil supply by 1.5 million barrels a day, more than 80 percent of their collective target, since the deal took effect on Jan. 1, Saudi Arabia's Minister of Energy and Industry Khalid Al-Falih told reporters in Vienna.

"Compliance is great — it's been really fantastic," Al-Falih said Sunday. "Based on everything I know, I think it's been one of the best agreements we've had for a long time."

Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Algeria and Venezuela met counterparts from non-OPEC nations Russia and Oman to find a way to verify that the 24 signatories to their Dec. 10 accord are fulfilling pledges to remove a combined 1.8 million barrels a day from the market for six months. They intended to prove the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries is serious about eliminating a global glut and dispel skepticism stemming from previous unfulfilled promises.

Kuwaiti Oil Minister Essam Al-Marzouk, who chairs the five-member monitoring committee, emerged smiling from the hour-long meeting with a message of success: oil producers were in "total agreement" on the monitoring mechanism and wouldn't accept anything less than 100 percent compliance with the cuts.

The committee, comprising ministers from Kuwait, Russia, Algeria, Venezuela and Oman, will meet next on March 17 in Kuwait and again in May. OPEC's secretariat will present it with a report on the 17th day of each month, the group said in a statement. A technical group, consisting of delegates from each of the five committee members along with OPEC president Saudi Arabia, will meet each month to prepare the report.

The monitoring committee will assess data submitted by each producer country, along with information from agencies such as IHS Cambridge Energy Research Associates, Argus Media Ltd. and the International Energy Agency, Russian Energy Minister Alexander Novak said. The committee will evaluate compliance with production targets only, though the technical group may also look at export data to support its analysis, Novak said.

Oil prices rose to an 18-month high of more than $58 a barrel after OPEC and several non-members agreed to end two years of unfettered production and instead cut output. Crude has since slipped about 5 percent from that peak as traders await proof that they will follow through.

Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest oil exporter, has already exceeded its target with an output reduction of more than 500,000 barrels a day, Al-Falih said, while Algeria and Kuwait have also cut to levels beyond their targets, according to ministers from those nations. Other OPEC members such as Iraq and Venezuela have not yet reached their quotas but say they are more than half-way there.

Al-Falih said he hoped all countries would reach full compliance with the deal next month and forecast that brimming global stockpiles of crude oil would return to normal levels by the middle of the year. The agreement expires at the end of June, though producers will discuss in May whether to extend it, Kuwait's Al-Marzouk said.

Russia has pared production by an average of 100,000 barrels a day, a milestone it hadn't expected to reach until next month, Novak said. The largest producer involved in the agreement said it would make a daily reduction of 300,000 barrels by April or May.

"We are starting to see a shift in the momentum and the emergence of more bullish sentiment on the market," Al-Marzouk said earlier Sunday. "These are all encouraging signs that we are on the right track."

Producers are keeping the door open for a possible extension of the six-month deal, Novak said. However, there's no indication that the cuts will need to be prolonged after June, Algerian Energy Minister Noureddine Boutarfa said Saturday in an interview.

OPEC's production fell by 220,900 barrels a day to 33.085 million a day in December, led by declines in Saudi Arabia and Nigeria, according to secondary sources data in the group's monthly report published Jan. 18. The organization agreed to reduce its output to 32.5 million barrels a day, although that total included about 740,000 barrels a day from former member Indonesia.

"We started to trust each other better, which is just as important as the market re-balancing," Novak said. "One year ago not many believed in the success of this initiative."



Associated Press

Marchers arrive for a Roe v. Wade protest Monday as hundreds converge on the Kansas Statehouse to mark the 1973 Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion nationwide.

Marking Roe anniversary, abortion foes pin hopes on Trump

By John Hanna
Associated Press

TOPEKA, Kan. — Abortion opponents expressed optimism Monday that President Donald Trump's early months in office would advance their cause as hundreds converged on the Kansas Statehouse to mark the 1973 Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion nationwide.

Trump, inaugurated Friday, has promised to fill a vacancy on the Supreme Court with what he has called a "pro-life" justice and has said he would sign anti-abortion measures approved by the Republican-controlled Congress. Even as GOP governors and legislatures enacted a raft of new anti-abortion laws over the past decade, the movement faced a big obstacle from Democrat Barack Obama's eight years as president.

"I have high expectations," said Karin Capron, a 69-year-old retired chemist from the Kansas City suburb of Mission who has been active in the anti-abortion movement for more than four decades. "The more hear about him (Trump), the more I think he can be very helpful to the pro-life movement."

Longtime anti-abortion activists mixed with private school students and joined prominent state officials at the annual Rally for Life, one day after the 44th anniversary of the Roe vs. Wade ruling.

The rally, which is regularly the largest annual political event at the Capitol in Topeka, was accompanied by worship services and workshops — a prelude to the movement's paramount event, the annual March for Life on Friday in Washington.

The rally included prayers for Trump and seeking an end to abortion.

Trump on Monday reinstated a ban on providing federal money to international groups that perform abortions or provide information on the option. The policy has been instituted by Republican administrations and rescinded by Democratic ones since 1984.

The anti-abortion rally has drawn several thousand people to the Statehouse in the past; the crowd Monday had as many as 1,000 people. But a women's march and rally Saturday drew more than 3,000 people — many of them concerned about abortion rights.

Marilyn Ault, of Topeka, now 78, became an abortion rights supporter in the early 1960s after watching a friend recover from an illegal abortion. Ault, who ran the local Battered Women's Task Force, said she recalls fellow abortion-rights activists thinking after the Roe decision, "That was it, and we wouldn't have to worry about it," she said.

Capron, a lifelong Catholic, said she became active in the anti-abortion movement in 1973, following the decision, after seeing a slide show at a church that featured pictures of aborted fetuses. She'd just had a baby, and recalls, "I said, God, I've got to do something."

She has protested and handed out literature outside abortion clinics and staffed anti-abortion booths at fairs. She has marched to raise money for crisis pregnancy centers and worked as a pregnancy counselor.

Capron hopes Congress approves a measure to halt funding for Planned Parenthood, the nation's leading provider of abortions. Another congressional proposal would ban most abortions after 20 weeks of pregnancy.

At the state level, tough new restrictions on abortion are being pushed in numerous Republican-controlled legislatures. For example, Ohio and Kentucky, within the past six weeks, have joined about 15 other states in banning abortions after 20 weeks.

Newly released data shows that the number of abortions in the U.S. fell to about 926,000 in 2014, the lowest level since 1974 — the year after the Roe v. Wade ruling. Reasons for the drop include the surge of abortion restrictions and the increased availability of effective contraceptives.

At the Kansas rally, Republican Gov. Sam Brownback, touted the 17 anti-abortion measures he'd signed into law in six years in office.

"That doesn't just happen," he said. "It's years of toil. It's years of prayer."

But Elise Higgins, a lobbyist for Planned Parenthood Great Plains, said the group was encouraged by the turnout at Saturday's rally and others across the nation.

"We know that reproductive rights are on the line now, and they're not going anywhere without a huge fight," she said.

CRIMEBRIEF

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Woman arrested on aggravated assault charge

A Midland woman was arrested Thursday after she allegedly shot into a door, according to court documents.

Ivonne Hernandez, 23, was being held Monday on a $75,000 bond for a second-degree felony charge of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.

Midland police were dispatched to a residence on Thursday in reference to shots fired.

Hernandez used a firearm to shoot a round into the door of the residence, according to her arrest affidavit.

If convicted of the second-degree felony charge, Hernandez could face up to 20 years imprisonment.

In Colombia, gourmet meals worth going to jail for

By Alba Tobella
Associated Press

CARTAGENA, Colombia — Visitors are flocking to the all-women San Diego prison in this popular Caribbean tourist town — to dine at Cartagena's trendiest new restaurant.

Convicts, some of them found guilty of murder, have been serving up gourmet meals since December in a novel experiment intended to promote the inmates' rehabilitation and confront the Colombian public's neglect of the country's exploding prison population.

Judging by the strong turnout at the Interno restaurant on a recent night it appears to be working.

Seabass ceviche and a tabbouleh salad made of Andean quinoa are among the dishes on offer whose recipes were provided by some of Colombia's top chefs. Dinner is served in a patio at the minimum-security prison where the inmates used to eat tasteless meals on disposable foam trays and which has been brightened up with a wall-sized mural and pink tassels hanging from metal bars.

Interno — Spanish for "inmate — is modeled on the InGalera restaurant at a penitentiary in Milan, Italy.

Latin America's jails are some of the most lawless and inhumane in the world. The inmates at San Diego frequently have to sleep on the floor due to overcrowding. The jail's director, Ramiro Cuadro, said that without donations from outside groups, important rehabilitation programs wouldn't exist.

The restaurant is an initiative by Teatro Interno, a Colombian foundation led by TV actress Johana Bahamon that holds theater workshops in prisons across the country. At San Diego, which sits just a few blocks from Cartagena's five-star hotels, celebrity chefs like Henry Sasson and Koldo Miranda ran workshops teaching the 170 inmates how to make bread and whip up fancy desserts. About 20 saw it through to the end and now don brightly colored Caribbean head wraps to greet guests.

Luz Adriana Diaz, coordinator of the restaurant, said the hardest part was convincing the women to believe in themselves.

"Being in jail you sometime get testy or aggressive and you ask yourself, is it really worth doing something?" said Isabel Bolano, a 62-year-old woman awaiting trial for allegedly belonging to a right-wing paramilitary group. "We all have fragile hearts. Anything can break us."

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TODAY IN MIDLAND

Things to do

■ Watercolor art classes by Sara Dreecher, 10 a.m. and 6 p.m., Arts Council of Midland, 1506 W. Illinois Ave. The class is for all levels. To register, email sara@artbysaradb.com.

■ Toddler Block Party is an hour of playtime with wooden blocks, 10:30 a.m., Midland County Public Library Centennial branch, 2503 Loop 250.

■ Bridge game play, 1 p.m., Allison Bridge Center, 913 W. Wadley Ave. $6. permianbridgeclub.com.

■ Indie Lens: "The Bad Kids" screening about at-risk students by Basin PBS, 6 p.m., Ector County Library, 321 W. 5th St., Odessa. basinpbs.org.

■ Bingo, 6 p.m., Tall City VFW Post 7206, 1306 E. Taylor Ave. Children welcome.

■ The Odd Squad Live, 6:30 p.m., Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. $18-$68. Wagnernoel.com.

■ Live Trivia by Challenge Entertainment, 7 p.m., Basin Burger House.

■ $2 Tuesdays bowling after 8 p.m. Bowlero, 5320 W. Loop 250 N. bowlero.com.

■ Karaoke with Ali, 8 p.m., Your Place, 3704 W Wall St.

Meeting

City Council
10 a.m. Tuesday
Council Chambers City Hall
300 N. Loraine Ave.

MISD parent meetings

MISD junior high campuses will host eighth-grade parent meetings that concern ninth-grade registration for 2017-18 school year. They will take place at:

■ Alamo Junior High, 6:30 p.m. Thursday

■ Abell Junior High, 6:30 p.m. Feb. 13

■ San Jacinto Junior High, 6:30 p.m., Feb. 16

■ Goodard Junior High, 6:30 p.m., Feb. 21

All eighth-grade parents are invited to attend.

Source: Midland ISD

Know a member of the military coming home?

Military families can call 352-0785 or email Vickie Gomez (zemogv@cableone.net) when they know their member of the military is flying into Midland International Airport so the Permian Basin Welcome Home Committee can be there to greet them.

Honor those who served

There are many organizations in operation right here in the Permian Basin that are at the task of serving all kinds of needs for present and former members of our military. Some of them are:

■ Show of Support (687-2167)

■ Honor Our Troops (889-0177). Reel Thanx (528-6633)

■ Centers for Children and Families (570-1084)

■ Midland College Veterans Affairs Office (685-4511)

■ Permian Basin Welcome Home Committee (366-3458)

■ Soldiers of Today and Yesterday (631-3429)

Stay connected

Web: mrt.com
Twitter: @mwtnews
Facebook: facebook.com/TheReporterTelegram

When it's open

Midland County Tax Assessor/Collector
210 N "A" St.
8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Wednesday, Friday
8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Thursday
688-4810

Midland Central Appraisal District
4631 Andrews Highway
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Monday through Friday
699-4991

Department of Public Safety: Driver's License Office
2405 South Loop 250 West
8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday and Wednesday through Friday
8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Tuesdays
498-2100

Lottery

Pick 3 morning: 0-2-2
Pick 3 day: 9-0-8
Pick 3 evening: 4-3-5
Pick 3 night: 2-3-8
Daily 4 morning: 2-5-8-4
Daily 4 day: 6-7-3-0
Daily 4 evening: 8-1-5-9
Daily 4 night: 6-2-7-7
Cash Five: 2-3-15-17-28
Texas Two Step: 8-10-23-34 BB: 22
All or Nothing morning: 5-6-7-9-12-13-14-15-17-19-21-23
All or Nothing day: 1-2-4-5-7-9-12-16-19-21-23-24
All or Nothing evening: 4-5-6-7-12-13-15-19-20-21-23-24
All or Nothing night: 2-3-4-5-7-8-10-12-14-16-23-24
Triple Chance: 5-11-15-25-27-34-38-49-53-55

Today in history

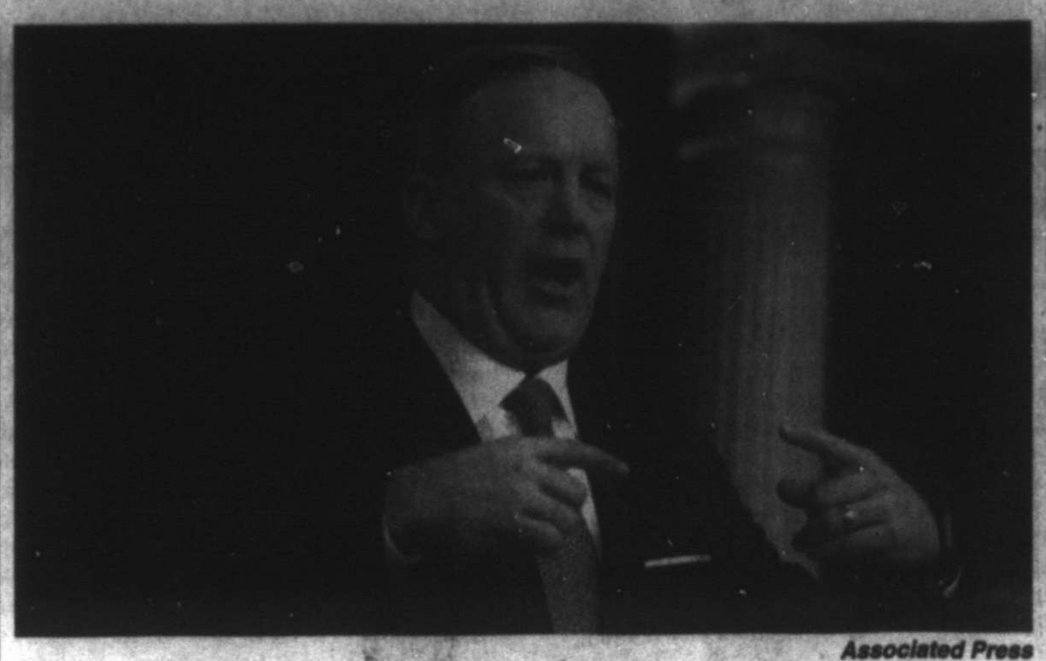
Today is Tuesday, Jan. 24, the 24th day of 2017. There are 341 days left in the year.

On this date:

In 1908, the Boy Scouts movement began in England under the aegis of Robert Baden-Powell.

In 1924, the Russian city of Petrograd (formerly St. Petersburg) was renamed Leningrad in honor of the late revolutionary leader. (However, it has since been renamed St. Petersburg.)

In 1939, at least 28,000 people were killed by an earthquake that devastated the city of Chillan in Chile.



Associated Press

White House press Secretary Sean Spicer speaks during the daily White House briefing Monday in the briefing room of the White House in Washington.

'Alternative facts' quip from Trump adviser sparks mockery

By Barbara Ortutay
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Down is up. The sky is red. Dogs are birthing kittens. Facts? Nope. Try "alternative facts."

The internet went wild after a top Trump adviser, Kellyanne Conway, said the administration was supplying the media with "alternative facts." The comment came after she was asked why Trump press secretary Sean Spicer mischaracterized the size of inauguration crowds.

Spicer made two unprovable statements in his briefing with reporters: that photographs of the audience at Donald Trump's inaugural were intentionally framed to minimize the appearance of support, and that Trump drew the largest audience ever to witness an inauguration. He also made statements that were quickly disproven, including an assertion that the Washington Metro system recorded more riders on the day of Trump's inaugural than when Obama was sworn in for his second term.

"Alternativefacts" quickly became a popular hashtag on Twitter, where users supplied their own such facts, including "cigarettes are good for you" and "it's not Monday. It is still the weekend."

The hashtag "spicerfacts" followed. Widely shared #spicerfacts included "Yoko Ono broke up the Monkees. Period." and "The KKK is a peaceful community outreach organization."

But even amid the snarky mockery, many users pointed to eerie similarities to George Orwell's "1984," a dystopian novel about a totalitarian regime. One quote reads: "The Party told you to reject all evidence of your eyes and ears. It was their final, most essential command."

Veteran journalist Dan Rather told The Associated Press on Sunday that while past press secretaries have misled reporters before through the omission of information, the weekend's demonstrably false assertions about the inauguration crowd size was the first time he could recall false material being delivered in this way.

AGENDA

From 1A

awarding a contract for the design and build shoring project. According to city documents, $216,250 — which includes $43,250 in contingencies — will be taken from the hotel-motel fund for Howard Baker Inc. of Little Elm.

Hotel Santa Rita asks for another extension

The City Council is expected to vote on another extension for HSR Realty No. 1 Development for proof of financing. The current deadline is Jan. 31.

In October, council members approved a third amendment to the master development agreement between the city and Hotel Santa Rita Midland partners that extended:

■ the proof of financing deadline from Sept. 30 to Jan. 31.

■ the construction drawings deadline from Sept. 30 to Jan. 31.

■ the commencement of construction deadline from Oct. 31 to Feb. 28.

■ the completion of construction deadline from Aug. 31, 2018, to March 31, 2019.

Project spokesman Robert Watson, CEO of Bond Partners, a diversified hospitality and real estate development company, said in October that "the start of construction has not changed. We have just put some cushion in place."

The hotel is expected to be built where the former Midland County Courthouse once stood. Officials previously estimated a total project cost of $80 million to $100 million. It is not known if or how much that cost might have changed.

Council to vote on agreement extension with Basin PBS

The City Council will vote to approve another extension for Basin PBS, which will not achieve completion of the remodeling of its downtown home by March 31.

The Midland Development Corp. approved authorizing a third amendment to the promotion agreement between the MDC and Permian Basin Public Telecommunications Inc., extending the contractually obligated date of Basin PBS's location on North Main Street from March 31 to Dec. 31.

Basin PBS, according to city documents, returned MDC funds of $300,000 last year when it did not meet its first completion deadline. City staff reports "substantial progress" has been made and that the MDC board considers this a worthwhile project for the renewal of downtown.

MDC offered Basin PBS $300,000 in 2012 toward its renovation of the Ritz Theater, which will become the television station's new headquarters. Releasing the funds is contingent on meeting a completion date in the contract, which Basin PBS must extend.

Basin PBS President Carla Holeva said during a presentation at the meeting that the station expects to get a certificate of occupancy this summer, with full completion expected to be finished in early 2018.

Basin PBS board member Jane Wolf said the station will have to raise another $1 million to complete the project. A total of $2.7 million was raised.

MDC

From 1A

Basin PBS will move operations into the Ritz, located in downtown Midland. The new headquarters will feature a full television studio.

In 2012, the MDC agreed to support the project with a $300,000 payment upon project completion. The deadline has been extended to Dec. 31. Basin PBS President Carla Holeva said during a presentation that the station hopes to receive a certificate of occupancy this summer and that full completion should be finished in early 2018.

Basin PBS board member Jane Wolf said the renovation is facing a funding crunch. While $2.7 million was raised, the project is an estimated $1 million short, though that figure is not firm, Wolf said.

■ **Wadley extension:** The board approved the execution of an economic development agreement with the city for the acquisition of right-of-way for the extension of West Wadley Avenue to State Highway 158. The MDC agreed to pay not more than $300,000 for the project. The money will be released after the city informs the MDC it has entered into an agreement with the landowner.

■ **Power to the chairman:** The board approved enabling the chairman to enter into a master professional services agreement with one or more engineering firms for engineering and design services for projects such as the Wadley Avenue extension, construction of the Carver Draw crossing and Phase III of the Briarwood Avenue project.

The board also approved enabling the MDC chairman or the chairman's designee to negotiate and execute a right-of-way license with Fasken Oil & Ranch on the development corporation's behalf.

■ **Selling land:** In separate votes, the board approved entering into a professional services agreement with Cushman & Wakefield, a commercial real estate services company, to facilitate the sale of properties on Interstate 20 and at Midland International Air & Space Port's Entrada Enterprise Business Park.

The MDC will seek a $65,000-per-acre gross sales price for the I-20 property, located east of the DRM Companies, 7100 E. Interstate 20. That lot is 78.25 acres, according to a map provided at the meeting.

The Type A sales tax entity will seek $50,000 per acre for the lot located on the southwest portion of Entrada. The lot is 5.8 acres, according to a separate map provided at the meeting.

The approval came with an amendment to not execute the agreement until the city attorney's office approved insurance figures.

■ **They're approved:** The board elected its officers through January 2018. They are: Brent Hilliard as chairman, Keith Stretcher as first vice chairman, Wesley Bownds as second vice chairman, Gary Douglas as secretary and Stephen Lowery as treasurer. Lowery has replaced former chairman Robert Rendall on the board.

■ **Save the date:** The board approved canceling its Feb. 6 monthly meeting. The board will meet again March 6 in the City Hall basement conference room.

Like Trevor on Facebook and follow him on Twitter at @HowdyHawes.

Fox cutting ties with Stacey Dash, George Will, 2 others

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Fox News Channel is cutting ties with some of its paid contributors, including former "Clueless" actress Stacey Dash and veteran conservative columnist George Will.

The network said Monday that it had also declined to renew the contracts of political strategist Ed Rollins and columnist Cal Thomas.

Dash hasn't appeared on Fox since September. She attracted a lot of attention in a short time, instigating a feud with BET by saying the network promotes segregation and being suspended for using a profanity on-air to refer to former President Barack Obama's views on terrorism.

All of the commentators were hired when Roger Ailes led Fox. The former chairman left Fox left summer amid accusations of sexual harassment, which he has denied.

Changes mulled as synthetic drug sentences cause confusion

By Eric Tucker and Sadie Gurman
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The men who sold it called it Mr. Miyagi, a mind-altering chemical compound mixed with vegetable material and resembling marijuana.

It was clear the drug was meant to be smoked for a potent high, notwithstanding the deceptive label that the product was potpourri not fit for human consumption. But less clear was how to punish the people who pushed it.

As drug enforcement authorities sound alarms over the effects and accessibility of synthetic drugs, the Mr. Miyagi case in Louisiana is but one example of how courts are struggling for consistency in dealing with substances that are developing faster than the laws to govern them. The result is a sentencing process that's often bogged down by complex science and can yield uneven results in courtrooms around the country.

"It's been a challenge for the courts and for the regulatory agencies to manage and make appropriate, logical decisions relating to these new substances," said Greg Dudley, a West Virginia University chemistry professor who has testified in synthetic drug cases. "If they're interpreted differently in different courts, you end up with broad disparities in sentencing for similar offenses."

Now the federal panel that sets sentencing policy is studying ways for courts to better handle cases involving drugs such as "bath salts," which can provoke violent outbursts, and the party drug Molly.

The issue matters, given the sustained popularity of synthetic drugs — man-made compounds that mimic more conventional street drugs and hallucinogens and are sold under catchy names in stores and on the internet.

Drug Enforcement Administration officials have repeatedly warned about the products' harmful effects but say it's hard to police them. Those who make synthetic drugs can alter their chemical makeup faster than regulators can ban them, and those who sell them can skirt the law through misleading labeling. Meanwhile, the DEA's forensic testing laboratories are "overwhelmed with the amount of substances" they're trying to identify and analyze, said spokesman Russ Baer.

Amid concerns about consistency in punishment, the U.S. Sentencing Commission is doing a two-year study on synthetic drugs that, among other things, will look at whether to update the drug quantity table that federal judges rely on at sentencing.

Judges use the table to come up with the starting point for the sentence based on the amount of drugs involved, then factor in considerations like a defendant's criminal history and level of responsibility. That's easy for drugs like marijuana, cocaine and heroin that are listed on the table.

Problem is, "bath salts" and similar synthetic or designer drugs aren't included.

In prosecutions involving those drugs, judges consult the table to find the most similar drug to the one in their case, based on chemical makeup and pharmacological effects. They then convert the drug quantity in their case to the equivalent quantity of marijuana to calculate a base offense level. But that often causes confusion.

DEPUTIES

From 1A

with "Live PD" equipment and two sets of crew ride with officers. They film live on Friday night and also follow county law enforcement on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday for more footage that can be used during the show.

"If something happens, it happens. It doesn't bother me (to have production guys filming)," Painter said. "Citizens have a right to look at it and see what is going on with their people. We work for the citizens and I want them to see what is going on."

Painter said the Sheriff's Office is not being paid for its participation on the show.

Highlights from Friday's show

Midland-based highlights included MCSO Patrol Sgt. Casey O'Donnell responding to a stolen property call where Lt. Ray Weatherby had already responded. O'Donnell also pulled over a pickup that had allegedly run out of gasoline; the episode concluded as O'Donnell responded to a call.

Upon introducing Midland as a new community to be profiled, the city then was recognized as the hometown of George W. Bush.

Other facts used to describe Midland County include:

■ 161,077 population
■ 902 square miles of territory
■ 13,459 oil wells drilled in Midland County
■ 6.2 million barrels of crude produced annually
■ Sheriff Gary Painter has been in his position since 1985

Internationally-acclaimed guitarist Doyle Dykes will present a free concert on Sunday, January 29th at 6:00 pm in the Chapel of First Presbyterian Church, 800 West Texas.
For more information, please contact Gregory Pysh, Minister of Music, at gpysh@fpcmid.org, or call 684-7821.

Tillerson heading for confirmation as secretary of state

By Erica Werner and Richard Lardner
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump's nominee for secretary of state headed for approval in a key Senate committee Monday after Florida Sen. Marco Rubio announced his support, backing off from a challenge to the new president.

Rubio said that despite serious reservations about former Exxon Mobil CEO Rex Tillerson, particularly over his views on Russia, he believed a president was entitled to significant deference in assembling his Cabinet.

"Despite my reservations, I will support Mr. Tillerson's nomination in committee and in the full Senate," said Rubio, who'd come under strong pressure from fellow Republicans to back the nomination and avoid dealing Trump an embarrassing setback in the early days of his presidency.

Rubio's announcement in a statement posted on Facebook came just hours before the Foreign Relations Committee was slated to meet and vote on Tillerson's nomination. Rubio's support virtually assures that the nominee will move through the committee and win full Senate confirmation.

Rubio had clashed with Tillerson at a committee hearing earlier this month, bridling at his refusal to label Russian President Vladimir Putin a "war criminal" and his failure to condemn human rights violations in Saudi Arabia and the Philippines in strong enough terms. He chided Tillerson over the need for "moral clarity." But in the end, after unsuccessfully opposing Trump for the GOP nomination last year before coming around to support him, Rubio decided to fall in line this time, too.

His statement came after the nomination got a boost on Sunday from two influential Republican senators, John McCain of Arizona and Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, who also offered tepid endorsements for Tillerson. Like Rubio, McCain and Graham had voiced concerns in light of Tillerson's long history of personal dealings with Putin, his record of doing oil deals in Russia and his questioning of the U.S. sanctions on that country.

It looks unlikely, though, that Tillerson will get much if any Democratic support in Monday's vote, which would be highly unusual for a secretary of state nominee. Every nominee for the job going back at least four decades has been approved by overwhelming votes from both sides in the Foreign Relations Committee, as senators have traditionally wanted to give a bipartisan vote of confidence to the nation's top diplomat.

Sen. Ben Cardin of Maryland, the committee's top Democrat, said in a statement Monday he won't vote for Tillerson. Cardin said he based his opposition on Tillerson's unwillingness to call Russia and Syria's atrocities war crimes, or to describe Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte's extrajudicial killings as gross human rights violations.

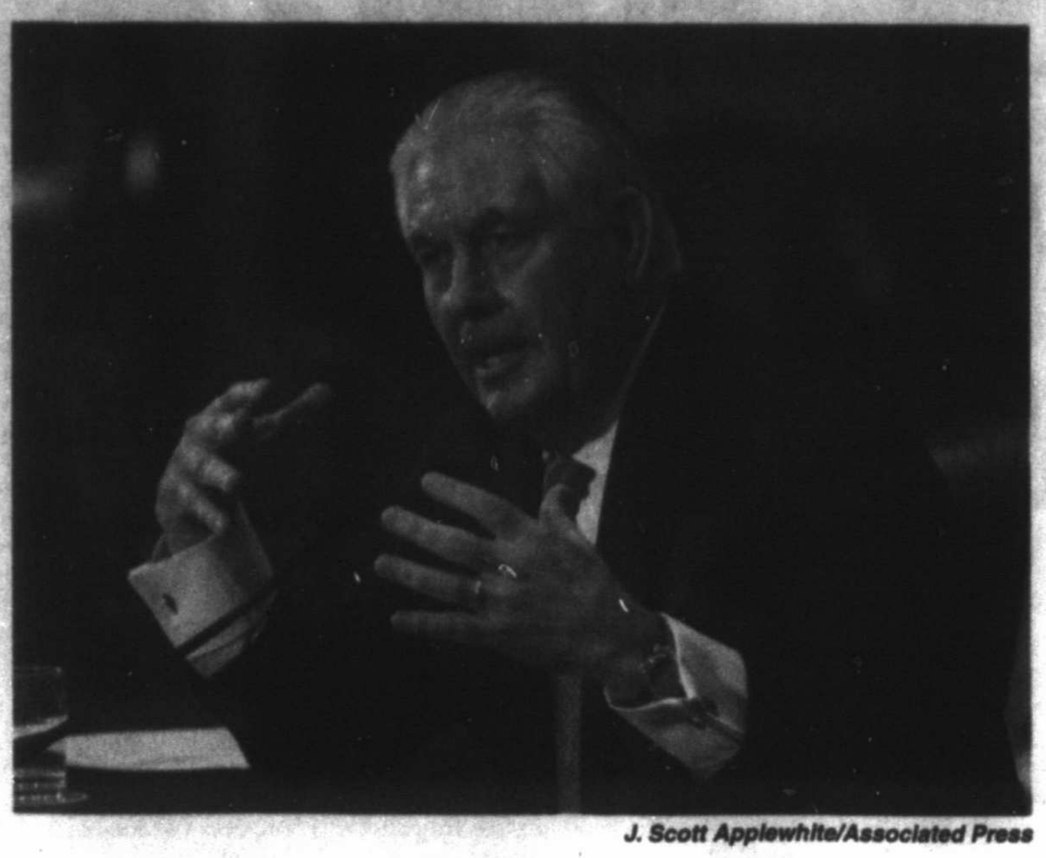
Cardin also said Tillerson misled the committee about Exxon's lobbying against the sanctions imposed on Russia for its annexation of Crimea and support for separatists in eastern Ukraine.

"I believe Mr. Tillerson's demonstrated business orientation and his responses to questions during the confirmation hearing could compromise his ability as secretary of state to forcefully promote the values and ideals that have defined our country," Cardin said. Most of the other Democrats on the committee have also announced their opposition to Tillerson.

Further roiling the debate is U.S. intelligence's assessment that Russia meddled in the presidential election to help Trump defeat Hillary Clinton.

Even while announcing his support for Tillerson, Rubio laid out a series of concerns in his statement Monday.

"Despite his extensive experience in Russia and his personal relationship with many of its leaders, he claimed he did not have sufficient information to determine whether Putin and his cronies were responsible for ordering the murder of countless dissidents, journalists and political opponents," Rubio said of Tillerson. "He indicated he would support sanctions on Putin for meddling in our elections only if they met the impossible condition that they not affect U.S. businesses operating in Russia."



J. Scott Applewhite/Associated Press

Secretary of State-designate Rex Tillerson testifies on Capitol Hill in Washington on Wednesday at his confirmation hearing before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Senate confirms Trump's CIA pick

By Eileen Sullivan
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Senate on Monday confirmed President Donald Trump's nominee to run the CIA despite some Democratic objections that Rep. Mike Pompeo has been less than transparent about his positions on torture, surveillance and Russia's meddling in the U.S. election.

The vote was 66-32.

Pompeo takes the helm at the nation's top spy agency at a crucial time for U.S. national security as intelligence — traditionally a nonpartisan issue — has been thrust into the political arena. Trump has been critical of intelligence agencies after their assessment of Russian involvement to help him win the election while the new president also has said he is fully behind them.

Senate Republicans had hoped to vote on Pompeo's nomination Friday, after Trump's inauguration. But Democrats succeeded in stalling action until they could debate.

Democratic Oregon Sen. Ron Wyden on Monday said Pompeo was the "wrong man for the job."

"He has endorsed extreme policies that would fundamentally erode liberties and freedoms of our people without making

Please see CIA/7A

PAID CONTENT

for your information

To appear in *For Your Information* call Paul Wiseman at 697-7468 or your Midland Reporter-Telegram account executive at 682-5311.

You CAN upgrade to warm wood tone—and still have carefree flooring

As you consider your spring remodel plans, don't give up on having warm wood tones anywhere you want them. After all, wood floors are unmatched for natural beauty. For years so many homeowners have wished they could have the warmth tones of wood everywhere—even in the kitchen, entryways and bath. But real wood comes with a price.

Not so much the dollar investment, although that can indeed be more than for most flooring. It's about the wear, scratches and stains that you have to deal with on wood. Maintenance can be constant and the worry never ends.

These days there's an amazing solution available at Southwest Floors. It's called HDP or high definition porcelain tile from Florida Tile—and the look is almost impossible to distinguish from real wood!

Southwest Floors' Travis Kendrick says this is one of their top selling lines, and it's no wonder. This HDP looks so much more like real wood than earlier wood-patterned tiles.

With older wood grain tile technology the pattern might repeat every few feet, giving your floor an oddly repetitive and manufactured look—unlike the completely random patterns found in real wood. Instead, HDP uses digital technology to stretch patterns to 100 feet in length, making it much more natural and more appealing to the eye.

Do you like the darker, more richly colored woods? Would you love a lighter tan or gray shade to brighten a large room? Or is a basketweave mosaic perfect for your home? HDP offers so many options.

All HDP tile maintains its amazing beauty for years and years, withstanding foot traffic, dirt and spills with just a little sweeping and mild mopping. This will allow you to relax even when the nieces and nephews escape the kitchen with grape juice, or spill Cheerios from one end of the dining room to the other.

Travis says wood-patterned tiles like this and others they offer account for almost 80 percent of their sales. You've probably seen this in homes you've visited, but you may not have realized that it wasn't real wood. This does explain why the homeowner wasn't worried about where in the house the kids went, or why wood was in the kitchen and maybe the bath.

Ready to use your imagination? Go see Travis Kendrick or Nick Burton at Southwest Floors and let them open your mind to the possibilities.

Southwest Floors was opened by Robert Burton in 1990. They carry a wide selection of carpet, tile, wood and vinyl tile flooring. The address is 1113 Andrews Highway, next to McDonald's. The phone number is 689-9312. Hours are 9-5:30 Monday through Friday and 10-1 Saturday.



The aptly named Berkshire series evokes a nostalgic Americana feeling. With its rich colors and hand-scraped texture, Berkshire looks and feels like panels of reclaimed lumber with a rich history. Find this and more amazing flooring at Southwest Floors, 1113 Andrews Highway.

The Cedar Chest
Home Decor
Vintage Goods Paint
Furniture
Shop Hours:
Tues-Sat 10am-5:30pm
2306 W. Michigan Ave
432 685 0019

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OPINION

Americans will judge Trump by their pocketbook

■ The president has to deliver on his promises, even if the nation is headed to a recession because of the previous administration



CHRIS TOMLINSON
Houston Chronicle

President Donald Trump has taken ownership of the nation's economy, so let's establish a baseline to track his progress toward making America great again.

After winning the presidency by promising to boost jobs, wages, factories and economic growth, consider it basic accountability journalism. Let's start with jobs.

The United States headline unemployment rate is 4.7 percent, a level many economists argue is near full employment. But as with any statistic, it tells only part of the story.

Trump has insisted that unemployment is much higher because the headline numbers do not include those who have given up looking or no longer get benefits. One way to include these discouraged workers is to look at the percentage of workers between the ages of 25 and 54 who have jobs.

Before the Great Recession in 2007, about 80 percent of prime-age workers had jobs, according to data collated by the St. Louis Federal Reserve Bank. That number dropped to 74.8 percent in 2010 and has since climbed to only 78.2 percent.

Some parts of the country were hit harder than others, and Trump can concentrate efforts in parts of the country hardest hit by the loss of well-paid blue collar jobs, such as West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Wisconsin and Michigan. Those are the states that delivered Trump's majority in the electoral college, and all five have unemployment rates well above the national average.

If Trump can raise the labor participation rate and bring down unemployment in the hardest-hit states, his policies should be considered successful.

The key to increasing the percentage of Americans in the workforce is to boost wages. Many proud unemployed factory workers simply won't consider a job that pays less than $15 an hour, nor are they willing to move away from their communities to find one, according to studies by the American Community Survey and the White House Council of Economic Advisers. Those findings are proven out by Trump supporters demanding jobs that pay well to save their shrinking communities.

American household income, when adjusted for inflation, peaked in 1999 at $57,909, then bottomed out at $52,666 in 2012 and has since risen to $56,516. But looking at the median alone obscures the fact that almost all of the income gains have gone to the wealthiest Americans, while the middle class has shrunk and the percentage of people near the poverty line has grown.

The inflation-adjusted value of the minimum wage peaked in 1968, the same year our nation recorded the lowest level of income inequality, and very nearly the same time that the percentage of middle-class Americans peaked.

Since 1971, the proportion of Americans considered middle class has dropped from 61 percent to only 50 percent in 2015, according to Pew Research Center. The best measure for gauging Trump's success on wages is to watch the poverty rate, which was 13.5 percent in 2015, and to track whether the proportion of Americans making middle class income also rises. Trump can boost the labor participation rate by raising the minimum wage and indexing it to inflation.

Increasing manufacturing employment will be Trump's biggest challenge. While he likes to blame American losses on jobs moving overseas, most economists agree the real culprit is automation.

Several American manufacturers have announced plans to build factories in the U.S., and some may even close foreign factories. However, new U.S. factories will need the latest robotics and automation to compete with cheaper foreign labor. The few new jobs created will require workers skilled in robotics, not the many machinists waiting for jobs to come back.

Trump has also promised to accelerate economic growth, which is currently at 1.7 percent, by overhauling the tax code and cutting regulations to encourage business spending. Here he has a far greater chance of directly impacting gross domestic product.

Unfortunately for him, the United States has recorded 80 straight months of GDP growth, the fourth-longest streak in our nation's history. Simply sustaining minimal growth through the end of 2020 would set a record.

The odds, though, are 65 percent that a recession will strike during his first term, and there's nothing he can do about it. That's because in truth, the president has little power over the economy, according to research by the National Bureau of Economic Research.

Economists Alan Blinder and Mark Watson found that oil prices, worker productivity, international economic conditions and consumer optimism have a far greater influence on the U.S. economy than the president.

Yet fairly or not, Americans judge their leaders by their pocketbooks. Trump made a lot of promises and now occupies the White House. What happens over the next four years is on him and those who voted for him.

OPINION EXTRA

Trump's youngest son should be left alone

Let's agree that Barron Trump should be off-limits.

He's a 10-year-old child and, unlike President Donald Trump's other offspring, highly unlikely to advise his dad on financial or political matters. He hasn't behaved in a way that invites judgment or rebuke. He asked for none of this.

We're not off to a bang-up start. "Modern Family" actress Julie Bowen is catching heat for a series of tweets poking fun at his inauguration demeanor. "Saturday Night Live" writer Katie Rich, a Chicago native, tweeted a tasteless (now deleted) joke about Barron becoming the nation's first "homeschool shooter."

Chelsea Clinton, the subject of terrible taunts during her White House stint, hopped on Twitter over the weekend to call foul. "Barron Trump deserves the chance every child does — to be a kid," she wrote.

(She also added, "Standing up for every kid also means opposing @POTUS policies that hurt kids," which critics say muddled her message. But let's stay on point here.)

We have a long and lousy history of being jerks about presidential kids. Before famously calling Chelsea Clinton "the White House dog," radio blowhard Rush Limbaugh called Jimmy Carter's daughter "the most unattractive presidential daughter in the history of the country" and later corrected himself, saying he'd forgotten about Harry Truman's daughter, Margaret.

Congressional aide Elizabeth Lauten stepped down from her Tennessee GOP post in 2014 after ridiculing Barack Obama's daughters for their perfectly benign behavior at a turkey pardon.

We can do better this time.

We can pause before we poke fun at a kid and ask ourselves what we value. Kindness and empathy toward children should be high on the list.

By many measures, Barron's life has been, and will continue to be, easy. He is shielded from physical harm. He has access to well-funded, high-performing schools. He will likely never go hungry. When he needs it, he will receive the best medical care available.

If it bothers you that other children don't have those things, well, it should. It is this nation's greatest failing that access to education, health care, food and safety is so wildly disparate from one child to the next. But we'd be far better served to invest our energy in solving those deficiencies, rather than tearing down a child whose bloodline shields him from them.

Few of us would have relished the spotlight at age 10 — certainly not the spotlight that accompanies a parent in political office. As Devorah Heitner writes in "Screenwise: Helping Kids Thrive (and Survive) in Their Digital World" (Routledge): "Do you wish there were more pictures of you as a tween? Probably not."

No more Barron Trump taunts. They're lazy. They're mean. They're counterproductive.

And seriously. A school shooting joke?

Do better.

— Heidi Stevens, Chicago Tribune

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US has monopoly on jobless recoveries

NOAH SMITH
Bloomberg

In a series of earlier columns, I suggested that the U.S. has systematically underestimated the intangible value of jobs while focusing too exclusively on economic efficiency. The real question is how can the U.S. turn that idea into real effective policy, without severely damaging the economy in the process. When looking for policy ideas, one place to start is other rich countries. And when we look at other developed nations, what we find is that in recent decades, they seem to do a better job putting people back to work after recessions.

In the U.S., we've been seeing a phenomenon sometimes called the jobless recovery. There's a clear pattern to the prime-age employment-to-population ratio since 1948: Before the 1990s, every downward dip except for the early '70s looks sharp and angular, like a letter V. But after 1990, they all look rounded, like the letter U. Shifting from V-shaped to U-shaped recoveries means that the economy is taking longer and longer to put people back to work after bad times hit, leaving them to languish for years on the couch playing video games.

Economists have recently discovered that it's middle-skill routine jobs — think of cashiers, telemarketers, or cooks — that tend to get eliminated in jobless recoveries. In a landmark paper titled "The Trend is the Cycle: Job Polarization and Jobless Recoveries," Nir Jaimovich and Henry Siu found that it's these workers who aren't being hired back in the U.S. after recessions hit. In fact, the much-feared phenomenon of job polarization — the separation of the labor market into low-paid grunt work and high-paid knowledge work — happens entirely during these U-shaped recoveries.

But does this happen in other countries? If not, there might be policy steps the U.S. could take to prevent this from happening. In a new paper called "Is Modern Technology Responsible for Jobless Recoveries?," economists George Graetz and Guy Michaels looked at 17 different developed countries, from 1970 through 2011. The title refers to the hypothesis that companies replace routine workers with machines. Graetz and Michaels basically find that the modern jobless recovery is a phenomenon unique to the U.S., and that other nations manage to quickly re-employ their middle-skilled workers once bad times end.

First, the authors demonstrate that other rich countries have had snappier recoveries than the U.S., at least when it comes to employment. While employment started to lag behind gross domestic product in U.S. recoveries after 1985, in other developed nations there was no change. That implies that U.S. businesses recovered their footing by replacing people with technology, while companies overseas simply hired people back.

The authors then look specifically at industries that use more routine, middle-skilled workers. These industries weren't particularly slow to recover in other countries. And when Graetz and Michaels look at routine jobs themselves, these tended to recover at about the same speed as other jobs — except in the U.S., where job polarization occurred during recessions.

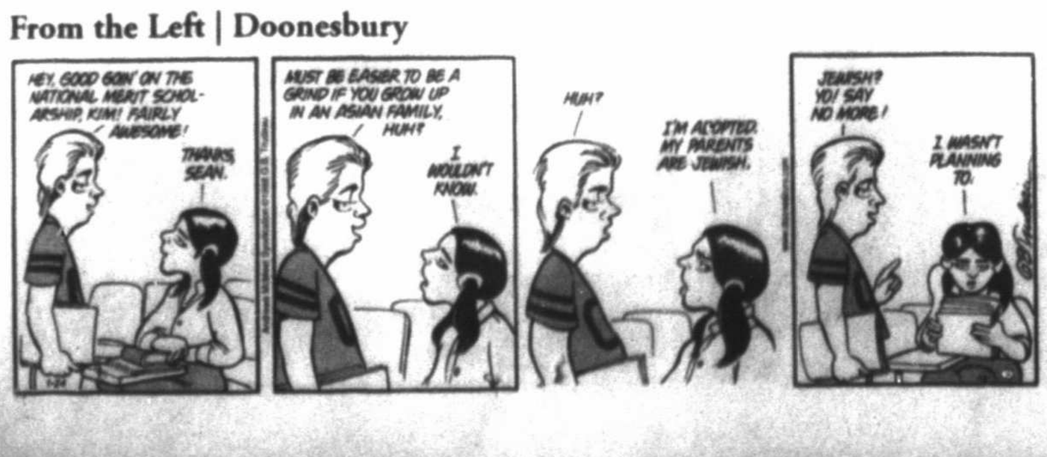
The conclusion here is that the U.S. is different. When bad times hit, American companies try to replace people with machines, while foreign companies hire back workers. Why this difference exists is a mystery. Unions might have something to do with it. I suspect that differences in financial systems might play a role — U.S. companies tend to be funded by markets, while European and Asian firms usually depend on banks. A third possibility is that overseas companies engage in so-called labor hoarding — essentially, maintaining long-term relationships with workers in which workers get temporarily laid off in bad times, but with the understanding that they'll get hired back as soon as the company can afford it.

Whatever the reason, the question is whether the U.S. can be more like other countries, and what that might cost. If replacing humans with machines improves productivity, then there's a natural tradeoff here — protecting routine jobs might hurt long-term growth. Countries such as Japan and Germany have generally had slower productivity growth than the U.S. since the late 1980s, and this difference might be a big reason.

On the other hand, it's possible that trying to reduce headcount in recoveries wasn't what made U.S. companies more productive. It could be that long-term relationships between workers and companies are actually beneficial, and the U.S. is wasting human talent and energy by letting these relationships fall apart every time the economy slows down. In that case, policy should encourage companies to maintain long-term contact with laid-off workers, and hire them back as soon as possible.

So more research is needed. But it does look like other countries have managed to avoid the curse of the jobless recovery, and U.S. policymakers should think about the possibility of emulating them.

From the Left | Doonesbury



From the Right | Mallard Fillmore





Evan Vucci/Associated Press

President Donald Trump signs an executive order implementing a federal government hiring freeze Monday in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington.

Trump moves to pull US out of big Asia trade deal

By Julie Pace
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Charting a new American course abroad, President Donald Trump withdrew the United States from the sweeping Trans-Pacific Partnership on Monday, using one of his first actions in office to reject a centerpiece of Barack Obama's attempts to counter China and deepen U.S. ties in Asia.

For Trump, the move was a fulfillment of a central campaign promise. He has repeatedly cast the 12-nation trade pact — which was eagerly sought by U.S. allies in Asia — as detrimental to American businesses.

"Great thing for the American worker that we just did," Trump said in brief remarks as he signed a notice in the Oval Office.

The Obama administration spent years negotiating the Pacific Rim pact, though the mood in Washington on trade soured over time. Obama never sent the accord to Congress for ratification, making Trump's actions Monday largely symbolic.

For Trump, the start of his first full week in office amounted to a reset after a tumultuous weekend dominated by his and his spokesman's false statements about inauguration crowds and their vigorous complaints about media coverage of the celebrations. While Trump's advisers have long accepted his tendency to become fixated on seemingly insignificant issues, some privately conceded that his focus on inauguration crowds was unhelpful on the opening weekend of his presidency.

On Monday, the new president tried to regroup.

In addition to his executive action on TPP, Trump signed memorandums freezing most federal government hiring — though he noted an exception for the military — and reinstating a ban on providing federal money to international groups that perform abortions or provide information on the option. The regulation, known as the "Mexico City Policy," has been a political volleyball, instituted by Republican administrations and rescinded by Democratic ones since 1984.

The actions were among the long list of steps candidate Trump pledged to take on his opening day as president. But other "Day One" promises were going unfulfilled Monday, including plans to propose a constitutional amendment imposing term limits on members of Congress and terminating Obama's executive actions deferring deportations for some people living in the U.S. illegally.

Spokesman Sean Spicer said Monday that Trump intended to follow through on his proposals, though on a more extended timeframe to ensure maximum attention for each move.

Yet he appeared to suggest that Trump would not move quickly — or perhaps at all — to reinstate deportations for young immigrants protected from deportation under the Obama administration.

Spicer said Trump's focus would be on people in the U.S. illegally who have criminal records or who pose a threat.

"That's where the priority's going to be, and then we're going to continue to work through the entire number of folks that are here illegally," he said.

Spicer — making his first appearance at the briefing room podium since his angry tirade against the press on Saturday — also appeared to back away from Trump's assertion that he could move the U.S. Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. While presidential candidates have long made similar pledges, all have abandoned the idea over concerns that following through would further inflame tensions in the volatile region.

"We are at the early stages in this decision-making process," Spicer said of the possible embassy relocation. "If it was already a decision, then we wouldn't be going through a process."

Spicer struck a far more conciliatory tone with reporters in Monday's briefing and attempted to make light of his weekend appearance, which included multiple inaccurate statements about the inauguration. He conceded that he was relying on incomplete information when he used public transportation figures to boast about the crowd size, but stood by his unverifiable claim that Trump's swearing-in was the most watched in history, counting internet views as well as TV.

The crowd actually in attendance was clearly smaller than for Obama's 2009 inauguration, though Trump denied that fact.

Monday was mostly a business day for Trump. The new president, who prefers to solicit opinions from numerous people before making decisions, huddled with corporate leaders, including Tesla's Elon Musk and Marillyn Hewson, and union heads. Eager to show off his new digs, Trump ended both meetings by bringing his guests in to see the Oval Office.

In his discussions with executives, Trump warned that he would impose a "substantial border tax" on companies that move their manufacturing out of the United States. He reiterated his campaign pledge to lower taxes for companies that stay in the U.S., as well as for the middle class, "anywhere from 15 to 25 percent," although he has not been clear on how he intends to make up for lost tax revenue.

He said of his incentives for businesses, "All you have to do is stay."

In the evening, Trump was hosting a White House reception for lawmakers from both parties and a separate private meeting with House Speaker Paul Ryan to discuss Republicans' legislative priorities.

As Trump pressed forward with executive actions, a legal watchdog group filed a lawsuit alleging he is violating the so-called emoluments clause in the Constitution by allowing his business to accept payments from foreign governments. The liberal-funded watchdog group Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics says the clause prohibits Trump from receiving money from diplomats for stays at his hotels or from foreign governments for leases of office space in his buildings.

Asked about the suit, Trump said it was "totally without merit."

Later Monday, spokesman Spicer said Trump has left his businesses as promised, handing over control to his two adult sons.

CIA

From 5A



AP file photo

CIA Director-designate Rep. Michael Pompeo, R-Kan., testifies Jan. 12 on Capitol Hill in Washington. The Senate is on track to confirm Pompeo to run the CIA.

us safer," Wyden said. He said Pompeo's answers to questions from some senators have been "vague" and "contradictory," making it impossible to know what Pompeo believes.

"I see no real commitment to transparency and his views on the most fundamental analysis of the day - the involvement of Russia in our election - seemed to shift with those of the president," Wyden said.

In written responses to questions from the Senate, on Jan. 3, Pompeo said only that intelligence agency assessments in general should be taken seriously. After Trump conceded Russia was behind the campaign hacks, Pompeo on Jan. 12 told the Senate intelligence committee that particular assessment was "solid."

"We need a CIA director who is direct about his beliefs and his assessments," Wyden said.

Sen. Richard Burr, R-N.C., chairman of the Senate intelligence committee, said Democrats were playing politics in its efforts to delay and derail Trump's choice to run the CIA.

One of Trump's first stops as president was at the CIA's headquarters in Northern Virginia on Saturday where he made a speech that focused more on falsely accusing the media of lying about how many people attended his inauguration than on the role the CIA plays protecting the U.S.

Standing in front of a memorial for fallen CIA agents Saturday, Trump assured intelligence officials, "I am so behind you." He made no mention of his repeated criticism of the intelligence agencies following the election, including his public challenges of their high-confidence assessment that Russia meddled in the White House race to help him win.

In its final days, President Barack Obama's administration announced intelligence findings that Russia interfered with the 2016 presidential election with the goal of getting Trump elected. Trump himself has denied most of the assessment, though eventually conceded Russia was behind the hacking of Democratic emails during the campaign.

Pompeo, a conservative Republican from Kansas and a member of the House intelligence committee, faced a mostly friendly confirmation hearing on Jan. 12.

He enrolled as a teenager at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York, and graduated first in his class in 1986. He served in the Army at a time when the Soviet Union was America's No. 1 adversary.

Trump undoes parts of Obama agenda with executive actions

By Jonathan Lemire
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump signed three executive memorandums on Monday, kicking off his first full week in the White House by undoing parts of his predecessor's agenda and renewing a longtime Republican priority on abortion funding.

Trump signed a memorandum that freezes hiring for some federal government workers, a notice to abandon the proposed Pacific Rim trade pact known as the Trans-Pacific Partnership, and another executive action to reinstate a ban on providing federal money to international groups that perform abortions or provide information on the option.

Here is a look at his three executive actions:

Trans-Pacific Partnership

As a candidate, Trump often said he could negotiate better trade deals than past administrations, repeating night after night that he would undo the North American Free Trade Agreement, which was signed by President Bill Clinton in 1994, and the Trans-Pacific Partnership, which President Barack Obama championed.

The memorandum signed Monday was a first step toward making good on that pledge.

Since the Pacific trade deal had yet to receive the required Senate ratification, there is scant immediate impact to trade, exports or wages.

The deal has been stalled amid bipartisan opposition in the Senate. It was widely viewed as dead even before Trump's move Monday.

In its place, the White House has said the

Please see AGENDA/8A

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Icy, brief face-to-face meeting of Syria government, rebels

Associated Press

ASTANA, Kazakhstan — Their seats remained empty for a few tense minutes after the Russia-Turkey-sponsored talks were officially inaugurated. Then, the Syrian rebel delegation finally walked into the room, marking what was supposed to be an ice-breaking first encounter.

But cold glances and sharp exchanges marred the first face-to-face meeting between the Syrian government and its armed opposition, which lasted about an hour in the freezing cold Kazakh capital, Astana.

The two delegations sat opposite each other on an oval table in the large gilded room. The rebel delegation was separated from rivals by friends: on one side sat the Turkish delegation, which backs the opposition and the U.S. ambassador, whose country has supported the rebels. There is not a single photo frame that shows the two sides together.

Still, that was an achievement. No other international meeting of the six-year conflict has managed to bring the rivals in the same room.

Realizing the symbolism of the face-to-face meeting, the rebel delegates stalled outside the conference hall.

Arab TV stations said the rebels registered their displeasure at being seated at the same oval-shaped table as the Iranian delegation.

Tehran has sent thousands to Syria to fight alongside the government.

Rebel delegates said they had no "talks" with government officials. Only barbs were exchanged.

Lead rebel negotiator Mohammed Alloush equated between the Syrian government with the militants extremists of the Islamic State group.

After the closed session, Damascus envoy Bashar Ja'afari called Alloush's comments "provocative" and "insolent."

The two delegations later headed to separate rooms, and proximity talks with the U.N. as mediators began.



Sergei Grits/Associated Press

Mohammed Alloush, center, head of a Syrian opposition delegation, and other members attend talks on Syrian peace Monday in Astana, Kazakhstan. The talks are the latest attempt to forge a political settlement to end a war that has, by most estimates, killed more than 400,000 people since March 2011 and displaced more than half the country's population.

AGENDA

From 7A

president plans to focus on seeking individual deals with the 11 other nations in TPP — a group that represents roughly 13.5 percent of the global economy, according to the World Bank.

"We're going to have trade, but we're going to have one on one. If someone misbehaves, we'll send them a letter of termination, 30 days, and they'll either straighten it out or we're gone," Trump said.

The major benefit to Americans from TPP had been the prospect of lower prices.

An analysis by the Peterson Institute for International Economics also estimated it would lead to a $131 billion increase in inflation-adjusted incomes by 2030.

But Trump has blamed past trade deals such as NAFTA and China's entrance into the World Trade Organization for a decline in U.S. factory jobs.

He said in his inaugural address that his administration would follow two rules: "Buy American and hire American."

Federal workers freeze

A frequent critic of the size of the federal government, Trump also signed a memorandum that freezes hiring for some federal government workers as a way to reduce payrolls and rein in the size of the workforce.

The freeze does not apply to the military, Trump said. The memorandum signed by Trump's is similar to one that President George W. Bush signed at the start of his administration in 2001.

The decision was cheered by conservatives, but denounced by the head of one of the unions that represents federal workers.

"This accomplishes nothing for the American taxpayer," said Randy Erwin, president of the National Federation of Federal Employees. "It only makes it difficult for federal agencies to do the business of the American people."

Mexico City policy

Lastly, Trump reinstituted a ban on providing federal money to international groups that perform abortions or provide information about abortions.

The regulation, known as the "Mexico City Policy" or, by critics, the "global gag rule," has been a political volleyball, instituted by Republican administrations and rescinded by Democratic ones since 1984.

Most recently, President Barack Obama ended the ban in 2009.

Trump signed it one day after the 44th anniversary of the Supreme Court's 1973 Roe vs. Wade decision that legalized abortion in the United States, the date on which presidents traditionally take action on the policy. It also prohibits taxpayer funding for groups that lobby to legalize abortion or promote it as a family planning method.

The move was predictably polarizing.

Republican Sen. Ben Sasse of Nebraska said in a statement that "Americans are humanitarians and the Mexico City Policy reflects our heartfelt compassion for both moms and babies."

The abortion rights group NARAL condemned the decision as "repressing women."

"With this action, Donald Trump has turned his anti-women rhetoric into policy, and made it more difficult for women and families all over the world to access vital reproductive care," said NARAL president Ilyse Hogue. "He really is living up to the lowest of expectations."

WORLDBRIEFS

FROM WIRE REPORTS

UNITED NATIONS

UN: Boko Haram's toll includes 515,000 malnourished kids

More than half a million children in the West African area wracked by Boko Haram extremists are so malnourished their lives could be in danger unless they get aid, a U.N. humanitarian official said Monday, describing a region where millions get by on one meal a day and some communities have lost all their toddlers.

Military campaigns have driven Boko Haram from much of the territory it took during a seven-year uprising that killed more than 20,000 people, displaced over 2 million and shocked the world with the abduction of nearly 300 schoolgirls. But as aid workers got into areas the Islamic militants had controlled, the suffering they left behind became clear in the last six months, said Toby Lanzer, the U.N's humanitarian coordinator for the region.

"What we have seen is extraordinary," he said at a news briefing at U.N. headquarters. "I have seen adults sapped of all energy, who are almost unable to walk. We have had villages and towns devoid of 2- and 3- and 4-year-old children because they've died."

Some totally destroyed towns had been cut off from the outside world for more than three years, Lanzer said.

Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari declared that Boko Haram was "technically defeated" in December 2015, but attacks have continued in some places. Two women suicide bombers killed at least 30 people and wounded 67 on Friday at a northeastern Nigerian market, in violence blamed on Boko Haram.

Saying that Nigeria and the Lake Chad region are enduring the worst humanitarian crisis in Africa, the U.N. is launching a more than $1 billion appeal and hopes a conference meeting next month in Oslo, Norway will spur donations, Lanzer said.

About 11 million people are "in desperate need" of aid, about 7.1 million of them are "severely food-insecure" — essentially, getting one meal a day if they can — and roughly 515,000 children are or soon will be severely, acutely malnourished, Lanzer said.

"If they don't get the help they need on time, they die," he said.

While the Nigerian government has stepped up efforts to help, an international effort is needed, Lanzer said.

Buhari, however, has accused the U.N. and aid agencies of exaggerating the crisis to seek donations.

CHILE

Country's worst wildfires destroy everything in their path

PUMANQUE — Residents of the community of Pumanque south of the Chilean capital have lost most of their belongings and their livelihood to some of the worst wildfires in their country's history.

The flames have destroyed more than 100,000 hectares of forest and forced the government to seek international aid.

Lambs suffered broken legs trying to escape from the flames and burned horses neighed in the charred remains of Tarcila Becerra's home in Pumanque, located some 130 miles (215 kilometers) south of Santiago. Its residents have struggled to contain the fast-spreading fires.

The Public Works ministry said Monday that machinery will be sent to the area to bury the hundreds of animals that died in the wave of fires that have been stoked by a prolonged drought and high temperatures.

Analysis: Trump's trade plans to test his deal-making skills

By Josh Boak
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump said he was protecting jobs as he officially pulled out from the proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal on Monday.

But his ability to help the U.S. economy might depend on whether Trump can strike better deals on his own.

Most analysts say the 12-nation agreement, the product of years of negotiations during the previous administration, would have reduced prices and boosted sales abroad for automakers, farmers and tech companies.

But Trump vowed he could do better. Riding a tide of worries about job losses and suspicion of such sweeping agreements, the businessman who wrote "The Art of the Deal" sold himself as a sharper negotiator than his predecessor. He now plans to shun multinational deals and begin focusing on one-on-one agreements with other countries.

White House spokesman Sean Spicer told reporters Monday that the decision to abandon TPP "ushers in a new era of U.S. trade policy in which the Trump administration will pursue bilateral trade opportunities with allies around the globe."

The Trump administration hasn't spelled out many details about how it would structure these new trade deals to create and keep jobs. Anchoring his trade team would be Wilbur Ross, the billionaire investor in distressed companies who is Trump's commerce secretary nominee; lawyer Robert Lighthizer, the U.S. trade representative nominee; and economist Peter Navarro, a fierce critic of China who would lead a new White House council on trade.

The White House has said it believes it is easier to negotiate bilateral agreements on equal terms, instead of a multinational pact such as TPP where a group of smaller countries can more easily exert their will. Of course, the challenge with bilateral trade deals is that the Trump administration would have to complete far more negotiations and the final rules might not be uniform.

Mastering arcane details about labor standards and domestic goods could determine whether Trump can deliver on his promise. Trump could bargain for protections for workers that could be undermined by other sections of the agreement that give companies incentives to move abroad, said Lori Wallach, director of Public Citizen's Trade Watch and an opponent of TPP.

"You could do half of it right and still end up with the result you don't want — more offshoring," Wallach said.

But Wallach stressed that voters will be able to measure Trump's performance in monthly government reports about employment and trade— the best way to see firsthand if he fulfills his pledge to increase factory jobs and reduce the trade deficit.

The first test of that new approach will come early.

Trump is slated to meet Friday with British Prime Minister Theresa May, who is coming to discuss, among other things, Britain's departure from the European Union. The exit means May must begin negotiating new trade agreements that could reduce tariffs and give Britain the access to the markets it will lose by leaving the E.U.

Amnesty urges Egypt to investigate Sinai killings by police

By Hamza Hendawi
Associated Press

CAIRO — Egypt must launch an independent and thorough investigation into the recent killing of 10 men by security forces in the Sinai Peninsula, Amnesty International said on Monday.

The government announced earlier this month that the 10 had been killed in a shootout in the northern Sinai city of al-Arish. But in a Monday statement, the London-based advocacy group repeated what the families of the slain men already claim — that at least six of them had already been in police custody for weeks before their deaths.

Authorities deny the charge and insist the men had left their families to join the local affiliate of the Islamic State group and that they later participated in a string of attacks targeting security forces in Sinai.

"The Egyptian judicial authorities must conduct an impartial, independent and thorough investigation into the killing of 10 men by the Ministry of Interior," Amnesty said. They must bring those responsible to justice, it added.

Hundreds of el-Arish residents along with relatives of the 10 men held an angry meeting on Jan. 15, the day after the Interior Ministry reported the deadly shootout. They threatened civil disobedience, demanded that those responsible for the "extrajudicial" killings be brought to justice and called on Sinai lawmakers in the national parliament to quit in protest.

Last week, thousands took part in funerals for some of the 10 men in el-Arish, chanting anti-government slogans and declaring the men "martyrs."

The meeting and the rowdy funerals were a rare display of dissent in northern Sinai, for years the main theater of hostilities between government forces and militants. They also reflected a higher-than-usual degree of discontent over what rights activists see as the heavy handedness of security forces in the rugged and mountainous region, including collective punishment following particularly deadly attacks against government forces.

In its Monday statement, Amnesty said the Egyptian government has used security threats in Sinai as a pretext to clampdown on human rights, claiming that thousands of families had their homes demolished and were forcibly evicted without being provided alternative accommodation. Reportedly, it added, hundreds more are held under conditions of enforced disappearance or arbitrarily detained outside of judicial oversight.

Cities and villages in northern Sinai, it added, have suffered economically as a result of the curfews imposed in many areas, shortages of food and medical supplies as well as power and water cuts.

The government has consistently denied similar charges, arguing that northern Sinai residents fully supported security forces fighting the militants and relied on the government for their security.

A popular backlash against the security forces could significantly complicate their mission since government forces rely on local residents in gathering information about the militants, who have routinely killed alleged informants as a warning to others. The conflict is ongoing amid a near-total ban on media access to northern Sinai, leaving local and foreign news organizations relying on military and police statements for coverage.

The insurgency grew more deadly and widespread after the military's 2013 ouster of the Islamist Mohammed Morsi, Egypt's first freely elected president, whose one year in office proved divisive.

President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi, who led Morsi's ouster when he was his defense minister, said this month that 25,000 soldiers were deployed in northern Sinai to fight the militants, a previously undisclosed figure that underlined the magnitude of the challenge the military faces.

Earlier on Monday, Egypt's army said militants had killed five off-duty soldiers in Sinai.

Liberia: Charles Taylor's ex-wife named as VP candidate

By Jonathan Paye-Layleh
Associated Press

MONROVIA, Liberia — Liberia's international soccer star turned presidential candidate has named the ex-wife of former President Charles Taylor as his running mate.

In a statement broadcast by Liberian radio stations Monday morning, George Weah said he and Jewel Howard-Taylor would head a coalition of three parties. Both currently serve as senators.

Weah, the first African to be named FIFA's player of the year, ran as president in Liberia's first postwar election in 2005, losing in a runoff to current President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf.

In 2011, Weah ran as vice president on a ticket with Winston Tubman, again falling short to Sirleaf, who that year was named a joint winner of the Nobel Peace Prize.

Charles Taylor headed the rebellion that sparked 14 years of civil conflict in Liberia. He became president in 1997 and stepped down in 2003.

He and Jewel Howard-Taylor divorced in 2005, one year before he was transferred to The Hague for war crimes and crimes against humanity charges related to neighboring Sierra Leone's civil war. In 2012, he was found guilty and sentenced to 50 years in prison.

At a rally over the weekend, Weah introduced Howard-Taylor and said that if he were to become president the country would be "an environment in which all Liberians, including former presidents, will live freely."

Weah said reconciliation and tackling youth unemployment would be among his focus areas if elected, though his critics say he has a lackluster record as a politician and sepator.

Democrats request another hearing for DeVos

Senators say they need more time to study nominee's potential conflicts of interests, ability to lead department

By Emma Brown
Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Senate Democrats are formally asking Sen. Lamar Alexander, R-Tenn., to hold a second confirmation hearing for Betsy DeVos, President Trump's education nominee, arguing that they need an opportunity to further scrutinize her potential conflicts of interests and preparedness to lead the Education Department.

"Education is too important an issue, and the Secretary of Education is too important a position for the country and for this Committee, to jam a nominee through without sufficient questioning and scrutiny," they wrote to Alexander in a letter Monday.

More on DeVos

Analysis: Democrats reject DeVos, help pave the road for education nominee

Page 2B

"This is not about politics, it should not be about partisanship — it should be about doing the work we were elected by our states to do to ask questions of nominees on behalf of the people we represent."

Those signing the letter included 10 Democrats and Sen. Bernie Sanders, the Vermont independent who caucuses with Democrats. They are all members of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP), which is overseeing DeVos's confirmation.

Democrats complained when Alexander, chairman of the HELP committee, limited each member of the committee to one five-minute round of questioning during DeVos's first hearing, on Jan. 17. Alexander was resolute at the time, and he has shown no signs that he is willing to have another hearing.

"Saying there was not enough time to ask questions is absolute nonsense," Alexander said in a statement last week. "Betsy DeVos's hearing on Tuesday was three and a half hours, about an hour and a half longer than either of the hearings for President Obama's two education secretaries. The Democrats are making up excuses because they can't find better reasons to oppose the nominees."

A spokeswoman for Alexander could not immediately be reached for comment Monday morning.

Alexander argued at the Jan. 17 hearing that he was hewing to a committee precedent, treating DeVos as Arne Duncan and John King, Obama's two education secretaries, had been treated during their confirmation hearings. But Democrats said that no committee chairman had ever before shut down a hearing before members had

Please see **DEVOS**/2B

REGENTRECOGNITION



MRT file photo

Rep. Tom Craddick, left, talks with Tim Leach, CEO of Concho Resources, during a reception honoring Concho Resources at a meeting of the Midland Wildcat Committee on Oct. 25, 2016, at the Petroleum Club. Gov. Greg Abbott has named Leach to the Texas A&M board of regents.

Abbott picks Tim Leach for A&M system Board of Regents

■ A&M site: Concho CEO is first-ever regent from Midland

From staff reports

Gov. Greg Abbott has picked Midlanders Tim Leach to join the Texas A&M University System board of regents.

Leach, the chairman and CEO of Concho Resources, earned his bachelor's degree in petroleum engineering at Texas A&M in 1982. He and his wife, Amy, have been supporters of his alma mater, supporting athletics and academics, including a $10 million contribution to help construct the university's Engineering Education Complex in 2013, according to the school's website. Leach is also on the board of directors of the Association of Former Students of Texas A&M University and is a member of the Texas A&M University Dwight Look College of Engineering Advisory Council, according to the governor's office.

Leach is the first Midlander to be selected for the university system's board of regents, according to the university's website.

Abbott also announced the reappointment of Elaine Mendoza and Cliff Thomas. All three are set to serve terms from Feb. 1 to Feb. 1, 2023.

Midland regents

Here is a list of other board of regents (or trustees) from Midland. The list is not meant to be conclusive but was produced looking at university websites.

Texas A&M
Tim Leach, beginning Feb. 1

Texas Christian University
Clarence Scharbauer III, chairman
Kelly Cox
Lissa Wagner
Note: Marcia Fuller French is a former Midlander.

Texas Tech
Mickey L. Long, chairman

Pepperdine
Dale A. Brown

Abilene Christian
Tod Brown
Kyle Hammond

Texas
Don Evans (former regent)

"Over the years, I have come to view it as a privilege to support Texas A&M in all its different efforts," Leach told Texas A&M Today in 2014. "Specifically, supporting engineering programs has a profound impact on many important industries in Texas and exposes young people to greater opportunities. Amy and I feel honored to be able to give back to Texas A&M."

The Leaches' sons both attended A&M, according to a report on the university website. William, a member of the class of 2012, earned his bachelor's degree in petroleum engineering, and Patrick, class of 2014, studied industrial distribution, as last reported in 2014.

Closer to home, Leach serves on the board of governors for Midland Memorial Foundation, the board of directors of the Midland College Foundation and the board of directors of the Scharbauer Foundation.

Leach gives Midland a presence on another major university's board of regents/trustees. Don Evans served on the University of Texas system's board from 1995 to 2001, including four years as chairman. There are two current board chairmen from Midland on major universities' boards — Mickey Long at Texas Tech and Clarence Scharbauer III at Texas Christian University.

HEATHER BROWN
Greenwood Elementary School



Gifted learners need chance to be creative and scholarly

As I have worked with and gotten to know many gifted students over the years, I have found that their interests and talents vary from one student to another. One student may be interested in drama and writing, while another is only interested in engineering and creating and also has been identified as a dyslexic student.

Although the methods of delivery, resources and programs vary from place to place, there are three goals that should be part of any plan for the education of gifted students: creativity, scholarliness and self-efficacy.

In this time of high-stakes testing, creativity has been the first great fatality. Teachers are abandoning creating and inventing for worksheets and review, pouring information into students rather than letting them discover it for themselves. This is tragic for the gifted learner. The students who will be creating our future don't have a chance to color outside the lines or imagine what could be. They must, instead, focus on what is and the information that must be contained to regurgitate on the state assessment.

Research shows that creativity, such as a muscle that has not been exercised and conditioned, will drop drastically around fourth grade. At that critical time when abstract thinking is beginning to set in, it is vital that students remain curious and engaged. They must be interested in the idea of learning and discovery and not simply in receiving information.

In addition to exhibiting creativity, gifted learners need to be scholarly. They need to thirst for knowledge and question independently. They must be offered opportunity for independent thought. They need practice utilizing a variety of resources for a given topic. They need to be challenged and learn to take risks without fear of failure. These skills may only be gained by hands-on experience and in a classroom where these traits are encouraged and fostered. These skills will not be accurately measured on state assessments, but in the medicines, cures and businesses created in 10 years.

Without self-efficacy, the above-mentioned traits are useless. Students gain self-esteem by being told they can do it. They gain self-efficacy by trying hard things and completing them, showing themselves they can do it. Self-efficacy may only be gained by a bit of a struggle and a series of trial and error to reach an ultimate solution. Too often, when we see students struggling we want to jump in and help or offer suggestions. This teaches students they need help. By allowing them to struggle and sweat a little, they learn to solve problems and find

Please see **BROWN**/2B

Texas Senate takes 1st step toward school finance overhaul

■ Senate has tasked new budget working group with coming up with ways to overhaul the state's school finance system

By Jim Malewitz and Aliyya Swaby
Texas Tribune

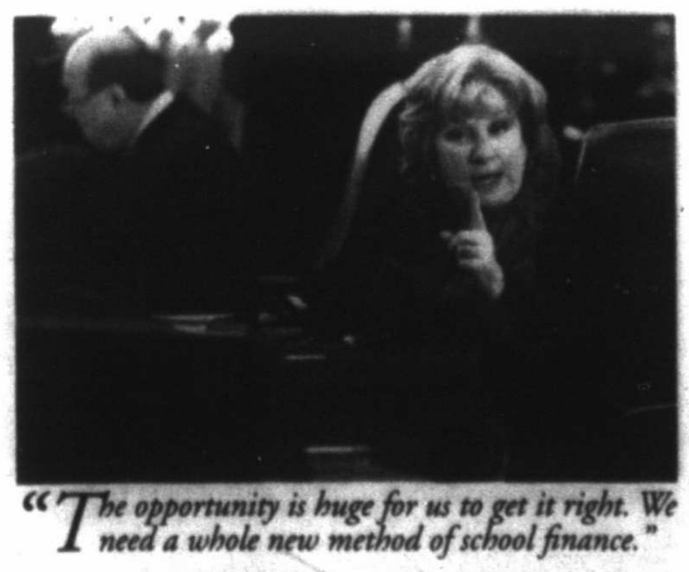
Leaders in the Texas Senate are vowing to find ways to overhaul the state's school finance system, saying a recent Texas Supreme Court decision granted them a prime opportunity to shake up the heavily criticized status quo.

On Monday, they announced the creation of a Senate budget working group — led by Friendswood Republican Larry Taylor — to tackle the issue. That group will work with the Senate Education Committee, which Taylor chairs, to propose replacements for the current school finance system.

"The opportunity is huge for us to get it right," said Jane Nelson, chairwoman of the Senate's powerful Finance Committee. "We need a whole new method of school finance."

They'll face an uphill climb in a session where legislators face several obstacles to major reform, not the least of which is money. The

Please see **OVERHAUL**/3B



"The opportunity is huge for us to get it right. We need a whole new method of school finance."

Jane Nelson, R-Flower Mound

Seliger files higher education legislation targeting affordability

From staff reports

AUSTIN — Last week, state Sen. Kel Seliger, R-Amarillo, filed three bills to address the rising cost of tuition that outpaces what many Texas families can afford.

Senate Bills 18 eliminates an unnecessary statewide mandate which requires institutions of higher education to set aside a portion of one student's tuition payment to be used towards another student's tuition costs.

"The set aside discussion is just a small portion of the bigger discussion around the cost of higher education," said Seliger, who also represents Midland and Odessa. "The focus should be on how to make higher education more accessible and affordable, rather than how to get the state, and students, to pay more."

Senate Bill 19 freezes tuition and fees statewide at Texas public higher education institutions for the next four years.

Senate Bill 543 implements performance-based tuition that requires institutions meet certain performance metrics prior to increasing tuition.

"Tuition relief and predictability is necessary for Texas students and families. SB 19 provides much needed stability for those planning to attend or attending college. Together with SB 543, we will have the opportunity to implement a long-term tuition reform solution which holds institutions accountable and ensures they remain accessible and affordable."

Seliger as picked as higher Ed chair

Last week, state Sen. Kel Seliger announced Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick again selected him as chairman of the Senate Higher Education Committee. Seliger also will serve on Senate Finance, Education and Natural Resources & Economic Development committees.

"I am grateful for the lieutenant governor's confidence in my continued role as chairman of the Senate Higher Education committee," Seliger said. "I am eager to continue my service on the Finance, Education, and Natural Resources & Economic Development committees in order to address the issues of importance to Texans and the people of Senate District 31."



Contact State Sen. Kel Seliger (R)

Address: State Capitol, Room GE.4, Austin, TX 78701
Phone: 512-463-0131
Fax: 583-0653
Midland office: 6 Desta Drive, Suite 3360, Midland, Tx, 79705
Phone: 432-620-0436
Web site: www.senate.state.tx.us/75r/senate/members/dist31/dist31.htm
Facebook: www.facebook.com/SenatorKelSeliger
Twitter: twitter.com/kseliger



AP file photo

Education Secretary-designate Betsy DeVos speaks Dec. 19, 2016,in Grand Rapids, Mich. Senate Democrats are formally asking Sen. Lamar Alexander, R-Tenn., to hold a second confirmation hearing for DeVos, arguing that they need an opportunity to further scrutinize her potential conflicts of interests and preparedness to lead the Education Department.

Democrats reject DeVos, help pave the road for education nominee

By Valerie Strauss
Washington Post

■ ANALYSIS

It wasn't all that long ago that it would have seemed impossible for anybody who labeled the U.S. public education system a "dead end" to be nominated as U.S. Secretary of Education, much less get support to be confirmed.

Not anymore. Betsy DeVos, a Republican billionaire from Michigan who public school advocates see as hostile to America's public education system, is likely to be confirmed despite a rocky Senate committee hearing, where, under caustic Democratic questioning, she seemed not to know basic education issues.

If DeVos does become education secretary, Democrats will of course blame the Republicans. DeVos is, after all, a Republican who has donated millions of dollars to Republicans, was selected to be education secretary by a Republican, and would win confirmation thanks to the Republican majority in the Senate.

But the record shows that Democrats can't just blame Republicans for her ascension. It was actually Democrats who helped pave the road for DeVos to take the helm of the Education Department. Democrats have in recent years sounded — and acted — a lot like Republicans in advancing corporate education reform, which seeks to operate public schools as if they were businesses, not civic institutions. (This dynamic isn't limited to education, but this post is.) By embracing many of the tenets of corporate reform — including the notion of "school choice" and the targeting of teachers and their unions as being blind to the needs of children — they helped make DeVos's education views, once seen as extreme, seem less so.

Historically, Democrats and Republicans have looked at public schools differently. Democrats have traditionally been defenders of public education, seeing it as the nation's most important civic institution, one that is meant to provide equal opportunity for marginalized communities to escape poverty and become well-informed citizens so they can become part of America's civic life. Public education was seen as a civil right.

Republicans have looked at public schools less as vehicles of social equity and more as places that are supposed to prepare young people for college and careers, an endeavor that should be measured with the same types of metrics businesses use to gauge success. Some Republicans have looked at public schools with suspicion, in some cases seeing them as transmitters of liberal and even godless values.

That's why it was unusual when, in 2001, the late Sen. Edward Kennedy, the liberal Massachusetts Democrat, gave critical support to the new conservative Republican president, George W. Bush, in passing a new education law called No Child Left Behind (NCLB). The law, they said, was to make sure public schools attended to the needs of all students, but it became known for creating new "accountability" measures for schools based on controversial standardized test scores.

Despite the bipartisan NCLB stance, pushing school choice (first mentioned in a major party platform in 1992) was still not a popular idea. That was clear in a Dec. 3, 2002, speech given by DeVos' husband, Richard, with whom she had worked to push through Michigan's charter school law in 1993. Richard DeVos, at the conservative Heritage Foundation, spelled out a state-by-state strategy to expand vouchers and school choice by rewarding and punishing legislators. He told supporters to call public schools "government schools" but urged that they "be cautious about talking too much about these activities" so as not to call attention and garner opposition.

But that began to change as school choice and other corporate school reform measures began to spread, with then-Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, elected in 1999, leading the way. His administration:

■ Instituted a standardized test-based accountability system called the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test, which later became so unreliable that superintendents rebeled against it.

■ Designed a statewide "report card" for schools that assigned them A through F grades based largely on test scores and pushed charter schools — which operate on public funds but outside traditional school districts — and vouchers and online learning.

■ Successfully did its best to export the "Florida Formula" to other states, growing the corporate reform movement.

The "accountability" system Bush supported and other states embraced in turn created environments in which charter schools could spread without much or any oversight. While some charters have been successful — and some perform better than traditional public schools - the wider charter sector became riddled with failing schools and scandals involving for-profit charter operators.

But school choice became a mantra. The Democratic Party was undergoing structural changes as its traditional bastion of support, labor, was diminished by the changing economy. Democrats began looking more to Wall Street and the super-wealthy for funding. During the past three decades, the wealthiest Americans have shifted their donations, giving more to Democrats than Republicans — with young technology moguls leading the way.

These tech leaders believed in big data — and the notion that just about everything can be measured - and that love for data took hold in education policy. Economists offered up "value-added measurement" models to evaluate a teacher's impact on student's academic achievement by using a complex mathematical formula to tease out every other factor on a child, including how violence in their community affects their test scores.

And the Obama administration loved it. A group called Democrats for Education Reform (DFER), founded and supported in large part by hedge fund managers, was formed before the 2008 election. It embraced corporate reform and pushed school choice. It turns out that it accepted some money from a group DeVos founded, the American Federation for Children. Vicki Ballagh, a DFER spokesperson, said in an email that the amount was "negligible," and teacher and blogger Mercedes Schneider reported that it was in the tens of thousands of dollars.

Hurricane Katrina in 2005 gave school reformers an opportunity to remake the troubled New Orleans public schools as the city rebuilt, turning most of those schools into charters. Though the charter schools have struggled to excel — and were accused of failing to properly serve students with disabilities — the experiment was declared a huge success anyway, proof that "choice" worked.

By the time Barack Obama was elected in 2008, it was clear to many that NCLB had been poorly written and had goals that were impossible for states to meet. During the transition between winning the 2008 election and taking office in January 2009, Obama's education team had been led by Linda Darling-Hammond, then a Stanford University professor who is an expert in teacher preparation and educational equity. Many in the education world thought she would be named education secretary and that Obama would continue in the Democratic tradition of supporting unions and making educational equity for all students a key goal.

But Obama was intrigued by elements of the corporate reformers' tool kit; in his 2006 book "The Audacity of Hope," Obama had already revealed his interest in how corporate reformers thought about policy. During his 2004 Senate campaign, he said:

"Increasingly I found myself spending time with people of means - law firm partners and investment bankers, hedge fund managers, and venture capitalists. As a rule, they were smart, interesting people, knowledgeable about public policy, liberal in their politics, expecting nothing more than a hearing of their opinions in exchange for their checks."

Instead of picking Darling-Hammond, he selected Arne Duncan. Duncan, a former head of Chicago Public Schools, talked about improving public schools to help every child, as traditional Democrats did, but his approach was in the corporate reformer model.

Under Duncan and Obama, the Education Department pushed the federal education agenda even further toward market-based reforms than Bush had. They used the promise of federal funds to push states to expand charter schools — paying more attention to growth than oversight — and to tie teacher evaluations to test scores, even though assessment experts said it was an unreliable method of evaluation. They also pushed the Common Core State Standards, with the help and influence of people like Bill Gates, a movement initially embraced by members of both parties but that eventually became the object of scorn from all parts of the political spectrum, for a variety of reasons.

Parents, educators, students and activists rebeled against high-stakes standardized testing. The two big teachers unions, the National Education Association and the American Federation of Teachers, both major supporters of Democrats, came to oppose Obama's education policy so much that members approved resolutions against Duncan in 2014.

George W. Bush, the Republican, had expanded the federal role in education and Obama went much, much further. Democratic support for market forces in public education reform softened the ground for programs, such as school vouchers. Obama and many other Democrats don't support using public money for private and religious school tuition — but Obama's opposition seemed like a policy asterisk compared to the Republican-sounding policy initiatives he did champion.

Some Democrats, such as Thomas McDermott Jr., the mayor of Hammond, Indiana, came to agree with Republicans like DeVos who said that it was wrong to separate charter schools from vouchers as school choice measures (even if many states have constitutional bans on using public money for private education). For many Democrats, expanding charters was the priority, not forcing strong oversight over scandal-ridden charter sectors in some states.

On March 4, 2011, at Miami Central High School in Florida, an unlikely trio took the stage — Obama, Duncan and Jeb Bush. The Democratic administration parted ways with Bush's agenda when it came to vouchers and tax credits, but the umbrella of school "choice" was embraced. So at Central High on that day, Bush said he was honored to welcome Obama and Duncan, and added: "Mr. President, as you have said, education achievement is not a Republican issue or a Democrat issue. It is an issue of national priority." Obama then praised Bush as a "champion" of school reform.

While they were at Central High, thousands of people in Madison, Wisconsin, were protesting Gov. Scott Walker's attacks on unions and workers. Neither Obama nor Duncan went to Madison. In 2013, DeVos gave an interview to Philanthropy Roundtable, noting:

"We believe that the only way that real education choice is going to be successfully implemented is by making it a bipartisan or a nonpartisan issue. Until very recently, of course,

Please see ANALYSIS/3B

DeVos

From 1B

a chance to ask all their questions.

Duncan and King were known quantities with long track records in public education, Democrats said; there simply wasn't as much to ask them. They have framed DeVos as a different nominee altogether: A Michigan billionaire who has no professional experience in public schools.

DeVos fed that narrative when she stumbled over questions about basic education policy during the Jan. 17 hearing, at one point suggesting that states should be able to decide whether to enforce a federal civil rights law meant to protect children with disabilities.

Her statement that guns should not be banned from schools because of "potential grizzles" at a rural Wyoming school became instant fodder for late-night comics. Her hearing and the optics of her nomination — a wealthy political donor with no experience as an educator, who wouldn't promise Senators that she would swear off trying to privatize public schools — have made her an object of criticism from many outside the usual Beltway education policy circles.

Democrats also want to press DeVos on potential conflicts of interest arising from her vast wealth and financial holdings. DeVos disclosed in ethics paperwork filed with the Office of Government Ethics (OGE) last week that she plans to divest from 102 companies that could present potential conflicts, but she also said she would retain interests in Neurocore, a company that purports to help students with ADHD perform better in school.

She is maintaining her stake in a family trust that has a financial interest in a company connected to for-profit higher education institutions, as well as two other family trusts about which she disclosed nothing, according to the OGE forms.

DeVos's supporters — including advocates for vouchers and charter schools, along with many Senate Republicans — have accused Democrats of mounting a politically motivated attack.

"The committee has received Betsy DeVos's paperwork from the Office of Government Ethics. She has completed the committee's paperwork, answered questions for 3 1/2 hours at her confirmation hearing, met privately with the members of the committee, and she will now spend the coming days answering senators' written questions for the record," a spokesperson for Alexander said last week. "We know that Betsy DeVos is a passionate defender of improving opportunities for low-income children who has committed to implement the law fixing No Child Left Behind as Congress wrote it, support public schools, and work to protect all children and students from discrimination and ensure they are educated in a safe environment."

Alexander had initially scheduled a committee vote on DeVos' confirmation for today, but decided to delay the vote a week, until Monday, to give Senators an opportunity to examine the ethics paperwork. But Democrats don't just want more time - they want another chance to publicly question DeVos.

"We would like to ask Ms. DeVos additional questions we were prevented from asking this week given we did not know all of the financial and ethical information that has now been shared with us, as well as address additional questions that have arisen from the OGE paperwork," Democrats wrote in their letter to Alexander. "In particular, we believe it is important to ask her questions around companies she will continue to own that are directly impacted by the Department of Education and this administration's education agenda. We believe the opportunity to ask such questions is consistent with the responsibilities and practices of this committee."

Brown

From 1B

solutions.

Gifted learners are often the forgotten population. They will be fine anyway. They can take in and regurgitate information with the best of them. They are, however, our future doctors, engineers, presidents and inventors. I'm not sure I want my future doctor to have had a "fine" education experience. I want her to be one who thinks outside the box and uses creativity to find solutions and treatments for patients in need. I want her to be scholarly and have the ability to research and question and find information when something is not completely adding up. I want my doctor to have a high self-efficacy. I want to know she will not give up because she knows she can solve difficult problems. The training of those doctors begins now with the students we have in front of us.

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PRESENTED BY CHEVRON AND THE MIDLAND REPORTER-TELEGRAM

TUESDAY PRIME TIME — JANUARY 24, 2017

For Complete Information Please Check Movie Listings

		G	S	R	C	W	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
	KMID ABC	3	3	4	3	2	Jeopardy!	Wheel of Fortune	The Middle	Am.Ho-usewife	Fresh Off the Boat	The Real O'Neals	Agents of SHIELD "Wake Up" (N)		Local 2 News/ 10	(:35) Jimmy Kimmel Live		(:35) News Nightline
	KOSA CBS	7	7	7	7	7	CBS 7 News	Ent. Tonight	NCIS "Keep Going" (N)		Bull "Stockholm Syndrome" (N)		NCIS: New O. "Hell on the High Water" (N)		CBS 7 News	(:35) Stephen Colbert		(:35) J.Corden
	KWWT CW	5	14		5	14	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	A. Griffith	A. Griffith	MacGyver "Blow Out"		Hogan's Heroes	Hogan's Heroes	Carol Burnett	P. Mason "The Case of the Poison Pen Pal"		Twilight Zone
	KPEJ FOX	8	5	5	8	3	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	New Girl (N)	The Mick (N)	Bones "The Price for the Past" (N)		Fox 24 News	TMZ	Modern Family	Two and a Half	Hot in Cleveland	Met Your Mother
	KMLM IND	11	12	12	11	11	Rocks/Manuscripts	Housecall	Update News	Behind the Veil	Light of the Southwest "Part 1"		Light of the Southwest "Part 2"		Aleph Course	Mission: M25	Ministerios Vida	Nueva
	KWES NBC	9	9	9	9	9	News-West 9	NewsWest 9 Now	The Wall "Ebony and Deanna" (N)		This Is Us "Three Sentences" (N)		Chi.Fire "Who Lives and Who Dies" (N)		NewsWest 9 at 10	(:35) The Tonight Show		(:35) Seth Meyers
	KPBT PBS	13	13		13	8	PBS NewsHour		American Experience "Rachel Carson" The groundbreaking writings of Rachel Carson. (N)				Frontline (N)		Charlie Rose (N)		Newsline	Tavis Smiley
	KUPB UNI	4	4		4	16	La rosa de Guadalupe		Despertar contigo		Vino el amor		El color de la pasion		Noticias Tejas	Noticiero noctu.	Contacto	Deportivo
	KOSA MNT	16	16		16		Last Man	Last Man	X-Files "Talitha Cumi"		X-Files "Herrenvolk"		Mike&M.	Mike&M.	Anger M.	Anger M.	Tosh.0	Access H.
PREMIUM	FLIX	340	575		165		(5:30) The Hills H...		The Hills H...		Domestic Disturbance		Internal Affairs Richard Gere.			Blue Velvet		
	HBO	300	550	14	14		BillMaher	Vice News	Making /(:15)		The Boss Melissa McCarthy.		Real Sports (N)		The Young Pope		The Big Lebowski	
	HBO2	302	551	15	101	23	(5:25) My Big Fat...		My Big Fat...		The Young Pope (N)		Bill Maher		The Green Mile ('99, Dra) David Morse, Tom Hanks.			
	HBO5	304	552	16	102		(5:45) The Great Raid Benjamin Bratt.				Friday Ice Cube.				(:35) Next Friday		(:15) Forgetting ...	
	MAX	380	557	17	120	24	Movie	(:50) The Score Robert De Niro.			Ghost ('90, Rom) Patrick Swayze.				The Conjuring Patrick Wilson.		(:15) Sea of Love	
	MAX2	382	558	18	122		(:55) The Score Robert De Niro.				Under Siege			(:45) San Andreas Dwayne Johnson.			Movie	
	PLEX			96			(5:25) The Little Vi...		Babe			(:35) Little Secrets			(:10) The Flintstones		Movie	
	SHOW	320	545	19	140	25	(:15) Burnt ('15, Com/Dra) Bradley Cooper.		Inside the NFL (N)		Homeland				Inside the NFL		Saw IV	
	TMC	336	573	22	155	26	Shrink: If You Know What I ...				Black Christmas				Hannibal Rising Gaspard Ulliel.		(:05) Summer of...	
CABLE	A&E	27	58	28	35	47	Intervention "Katie S."		Intervention "Tiffany"		Intervention "Todd" (N)		Remini "Leah Remini: The Apostate" (N)		(:05) Six "Pilot" (P) (N)		(:05) Intervention "Tiffany"	
	AMC	40	74	23	42	51	(4:00) Pearl Harbor		True Grit ('10, Adv) Matt Damon, Jeff Bridges.						Open Range ('03, West) Robert Duvall.			
	BET	58	-		40		(5:00) Obsessed	Beyonce Knowles.			New Edition Pt. 1 of 3 cont'd Jan 25 (N)				New Edition Pt. 1 of 3 cont'd Jan 25			
	BRAVO	65	76		41		Beverly Hills		Bev Hills Social (N)		Beverly Hills (N)		Ladies of London (N)		Watch (N)	Housewives Atlanta		LadiesL.
	CNBC	46	52		39	72	Billion Dollar Buyer		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Billion Buyer (N)		Shark Tank	Shark Tank		
	CNN	43	50	51	30	56	OutFront		A. Cooper 360		A. Cooper 360		CNN Tonight		CNN Tonight	A. Cooper 360		
	DISC	50	60	31	24	42	Moonshiners		Moonshiners (N)		Moonshiners (N)		Killing Fields (N)		Moonshiners	Killing Fields		
	DISNEY	56	64	36	25	36	Underc.	Good Luck	StuckMid	GoodLuck	Liv/Mad	Liv/Mad	Bunk'd	Bunk'd	Jessie	Jessie	Girl M.	Friends
	ESPN	32	35	48	31	30	NCAA Basketball Purdue at Michigan State (L)				NCAA Basketball Kentucky at Tennessee (L)				SportsCenter			
	ESPN2	34	36	49	32	31	NCAA Basketball Kansas at West Virginia (L)				ITF Tennis Australian Open Men's and Women's Quarter-final Site: Melbourne Park (L)							
	FNC	45	48	53	23	55	(5:00) Special Report		The O'Reilly Factor		TuckerCarlsonTon		Hannity		The O'Reilly Factor		TuckerCarlsonTon	
	FOOD	64	70	27	68	54	Chopped: All Stars		Chopped Junior (N)		Chopped		Chopped (N)		Chopped		Chopped	
	FREEFORM	53	63	34	42	33	(5:30) Paul Blart: Mall Cop				Hitch ('05, Com) Eva Mendes, Will Smith.				The 700 Club		Gilmore Girls	
	FSSW	37	38	50	45	29	SportsDay OnAir	Stars Insider	Stars Pre-game (L)		NHL Hockey Minnesota Wild at Dallas Stars Site: American Airlines Center -- Dallas, Texas (L)				Stars Live (L)	Inside Big East (N)	WPT Poker L.A. Classic	
	FX	31	56	59	64	69	Captain America: The Winter Soldier Chris Evans.						Taboo "Episode 3" (N)			Taboo		Taboo
	HALLMARK	54	71	58		34	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	Middle	Middle	Middle	Middle	G. Girls	G. Girls	G. Girls	G. Girls
	HGTV	63	69	26	48	44	Fixer Upper		Fixer Upper		Fixer Upper (N)		H.Hunt	House (N)	Fixer Upper		Fixer Upper	
	HISTORY	71	59	29	50	43	Curse of Oak Island		Oak Island (N)		Curse Oak Island (N)		(:05) Forged Fire (N)		(:05) Six "Pilot"		(:05) Oak Island	
	LIFETIME	28	30	25	28	48	Dance Moms "The Fresno Curse"		Dance Chat "ALDC Ain't Dead Yet" (N)		Dance Moms "Battle of the Blondes" (N)		Celebrity Wife Swap		Celebrity Wife Swap "Charo/ Jill Whelan"		Dance Moms: Chat "ALDC Ain't Dead Yet"	
	MSNBC	47	53		49	73	Hardball		All In With C. Hayes		Rachel Maddow		The Last Word		11thHour	Hardball	Rachel Maddow	
	NBCSN	38	43				NHL Hockey St. Louis Blues at Pittsburgh Penguins (L)						(:45) NHL Overtime (L)		FIS Freestyle Skiing		USSA (N)	
	NICK	55	-	39	34	37	Paradise	Thunder	Thunder	Nicky	F.House	F.House	F.House	F.House	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends
	SPIKE	30	-	55	53	58	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Campus	Campus	Cops	Cops	Campus	Campus	Cops	Cops
	SYFY	66	82	41	57	67	Face Off		Face Off		Face Off (N)				(:05) Maleficent Angelina Jolie.		(:05) Face Off	
	TBS	25	33	44	66	41	Sein. "The Stake Out"	Seinf. "The Robbery"	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Conan Aaron Paul, Bert Kreischer (N)		2 Broke Girls	Conan
	TCM	41	75	24	63	66	(:15) MGM 40th				Caged Eleanor Parker.	(:45)	House of Women Shirley Knight.			Ladies They Ta...		Movie
	TELE	20	-	10	20		Caso cerrado		La fan		La Doña		El Chema		Al rojo	(:35) Titular.	La Doña	
	TLC	51	61	32	38	52	My Big Fat Fabulous Life New Season" (N)		"Countdown to the		Big Fat Fabulous Li. "Knocked Up!" (N)		(:05) Tattoo "The Hairy Wolf Tattoo" (P) (N)		(:05) Big Fat Fabulous Li. "Knocked Up!"		(:05) Tattoo Girls "The Hairy Wolf Tattoo	
	TNT	24	34	40	26	50	Bones "The Eye in the Sky"				Unknown Liam Hesse. After awakening from a coma, a man discovers that his identity was stolen.				Paycheck Ben Affleck. After his memory is erased, an engineer tries to evade the FBI and stop a future disaster.			
	TVLAND	49	-	35	54	35	Griffith	A. Griffith	Griffith	Loves Ray	Loves Ray	Loves Ray	Teachers	T. Shade	Queens	Queens	Queens	Queens
	USA	26	55	42	27	49	Modern Family	Modern Family	WWE Smackdown! In long-running rivalries.		WWE superstars do battle		The Condemned 2 (2015, Action) Roberts, Wes Studi, Randy Orton.		Eric		Law & Order: S.V.U. "Confession"	
	WGN	19	85				Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Outsiders (N)		Outsiders		Outsiders		Outsiders	

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MC faculty members honored

Two Midland College faculty members were presented with the Teaching Excellence Award at a luncheon on Jan. 19.

The 2017 honorees are Stacy Egan, assistant professor of English, and Michael Fields, cosmetology program chair.

Egan conducts writing/grammar seminars, manages programming for MC's Language Hub and is co-advisor of the English Honorary Society. She has a bachelor of arts degree in English from New York University and master of arts and a master of fine arts degrees from McNeese State University.

Fields developed MC's Cosmetology program in 2004. He has an associate of arts degree from El Paso Community College and a Texas Cosmetology Operator/Instructor license from the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation.

They received a cash honorarium and an individual plaque, and their names are permanently displayed in the Pevehouse Administration Building. They will represent Midland College at the League for Innovation in the Community College conference in San Francisco March 12-15.

Other nominees for the award were John Anderson, chemistry program chair; Derek Gasch, manufacturing services department chair; Pamela Howell, English program chair; Joey Schenkman, biology instructor; and Donna Thompson, psychology professor.

EDUCATIONBRIEFS

FROM STAFF REPORTS

UTPB professor organizes Italy trip

ODESSA — Nancy Hart, associate professor of art at The University of Texas of the Permian Basin, is organizing a study-abroad course to Italy. The trip, planned for May 21-June 1, will encompass Rome, Vatican City, Sorrento, Naples, Pompeii, Regello, Cortona and Pienza. A short course is planned for participants to learn about the places they will be visiting.

The trip is through WorldStrides Tour Co., according to a press release from UTPB. The cost is $3,800 per person, which includes airfare, hotels, some meals, museum admission fees, tour guides and transportation.

Deadline to sign up is Feb. 9. There will be a $400 deposit. To sign up, or for more information, contact Nancy hart at hart_n@utpb.edu.

Simon scholarship applicants sought

Simon Youth Foundation, a national nonprofit of Simon malls — including Midland Park Mall — is seeking applicants for its Simon Youth Community Scholarship. The application period ends on March 1.

The scholarship is $2,500 for four years, according to a press release from the foundation.

Students can apply online by visiting syf.org/scholarships.

OVERHAUL

From 1B

announcement comes a week after the Senate unveiled its preliminary budget, which did not include additional funding for public education.

During the Finance Committee's first hearing of the 2017 legislative session on Monday, Nelson, R-Flower Mound, advised the newly formed working group to "start with a clean slate" in recommending a new school finance scheme. "It should be less complicated, innovative and should meet the needs of our students," she added.

The current system funds Texas public school districts arbitrarily and inequitably across the state, and is held together by short-term fixes that have not been revisited in decades. Educators have repeatedly asserted the funding formulas do not provide them with enough money to meet the state's academic standards.

In May, the Texas Supreme Court upheld the state's existing funding system as constitutional, and at the same time tasked state legislators with reforming it.

"We're left with a question mark as to what this effort will mean by the Senate," said Lynn Moak, a school finance expert at the Austin-based consulting firm Moak, Casey & Associates. The main question is "whether they're trying to reform school finance within existing dollars or looking for possible additional dollars to fund the system."

Nelson last week unveiled the Senate's $213.4 billion two-year budget proposal, calling it a bare-bones starting point for financial discussions in what promises to be a particularly tight-fisted year. That proposal did not touch funding formulas for public education.

The House's base budget — also released last week — included an additional $1.5 billion that could be spent on public education only if the Legislature reforms the school finance system.

Monday's announcement signaled the Senate's strong willingness to pursue an overhaul. Nelson called it one of the two most important issues facing the Finance Committee, along with addressing health care spending. She also appointed a working group to draw up proposals on containing fast-rising health care costs.

The issues "deserve a deep dive," she said, "and that begins today."

Some of her colleagues seemed skeptical that the school finance working group would be open-minded. Sen. John Whitmire, D-Houston, asked Taylor, "Are you willing to put everything on the table as an alternative to current funding mechanisms?"

Taylor said yes — and called it a boon that the state Supreme Court did not force the state to come up with a specific plan to fix the school finance system. "They've actually cleared the air for us to come and do a meaningful reform," Taylor said.

The Texas Education Agency will testify before the Senate Finance Committee today.

ANALYSIS

From 2B

that hasn't been the case. Most of the Democrats have been supported by the teachers' unions and, not surprisingly, have taken the side of the teachers' unions. What we've tried to do is engage with Democrats, to make it politically safe for them to do what they know in their heart of hearts is the right thing. Education should be nonpartisan.

"I wouldn't underestimate the growing interest in educational choice among Democratic leaders. I think we're going to see increasing numbers of Democrats embracing educational choice programs at a gubernatorial level. We are certainly seeing it happen at the state-legislator level."

Growing numbers of Democrats joined with Republicans in state legislatures to approve charter school laws and voucher or tax credit programs. When Sen. Cory Booker, D-N.J., was mayor of Newark, he was a strong corporate school reformer, supporting choice and vouchers. He appeared at the May 2016 policy summit of DeVos' American Federation for Children, which he called "an incredible organization," and he urged the attendees to "stay faithful to the work we are doing."

Booker came out before DeVos' confirmation hearing saying he had "serious early concerns" about her becoming education secretary, but that sounded to many as much about politics as DeVos' education philosophy. But now, some Democrats who were entirely or largely on DeVos' education reform page are having second thoughts.

Booker said he had some "serious" concerns about the Trump education agenda. DFER, after initially putting out one statement that tried to separate its pleasure at the DeVos nomination from their dislike of Trump, issued a second one that said: "From what we know about the education agenda of President-elect Trump and Mrs. DeVos, we are deeply troubled." Then, on Inauguration Day, it put out a statement saying it could not support her nomination.

So now we have Democrats worrying about DeVos' tenure at education, assuming she gets confirmed. They said at her confirmation hearing that they believe she is unfit for the office, someone who has never had anything to do with public education and isn't versed in major issues the department oversees. They aren't worrying for nothing, but they can't put all the blame on Republicans.

As Abbott wanted, new accountability will be required for pre-K

By W. Gardner Sel
Austin American-Statesman

■ COMMENTARY

While running for governor, Greg Abbott faced a charge that he wanted to mandate standardized testing of 4-year-olds enrolled in half-day prekindergarten classes.

Not quite, we found in a 2014 fact-check that gave a Mostly False rating to Abbott's opponent, Wendy Davis. But Abbott did call for changing state law to offer more money to school districts that agree to implement a "gold standard" program consisting of a rigorous curriculum and staff requirements — with student progress in such classes to be gauged and widely reported.

Generally, Abbott said, all districts with pre-K classes should be required to "administer assessments at the beginning and end of the school year" by picking from a list of approved assessments to be spelled out by the Texas Education Agency.

Abbott said assessment methods could include norm-referenced standardized tests, teachers checklisting each child's mastery of materials within the class's daily routine, or teacher "portfolio" reviews of each child's accumulated work.

"Most states employ one or both of the first two assessment methods," he said in his October 2013 compendium of campaign vows. "Texas is one of only four states not to require any assessment.

That's not going to be the case any longer.

We put Abbott's campaign promise on pre-K accountability to our Abbott-O-Meter, which tracks the status of his promises on our website, PolitiFact.com/texas.

As Abbott noted in a June 2015 document distributed to reporters, the 2015 Legislature included in House Bill 4, which Abbott signed into law, a requirement that districts offering pre-K classes assess students in those classes and publicize the outcomes.

Per that measure, authored by state Rep. Dan Huberty, R-Houston, each school district must select and implement appropriate methods for evaluating its pre-K classes "by measuring student progress" and make related data available to parents.

Under the law, a district may administer diagnostic tests to evaluate student progress, but cannot employ a "state standardized assessment instrument." In keeping with Abbott's campaign vow, the law says the student assessment "must be selected from a list" of appropriate tests identified by the education commissioner.

To our inquiry about these changes, a Huberty aide, Ben Melson, agreed that the law doesn't require student testing twice a year as Abbott proposed. Melson also pointed out the proposal was amended on the motion of state Sen. Judith Zaffirini, D-Laredo, to require districts assessing student progress to report results to the state and describe the materials used in classes. Also, under her amendment, the state is required to post such data online.

We're marking this Abbott promise a compromise.

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Nellie Doneva/Abilene Reporter-News via AP

Academy of Technology, Engineering, Math & Science students test different rocket engines in their aerospace engineering course Jan. 12 in Abilene. Aerospace engineering, a subspecialty within the engineering track at the specialized high school, was launched this year. It's part of the Abilene Independent School District. Texas State Technical College and NASA have programs available to the aerospace engineering students — or those who simply have an interest in space and science.

Abilene students learn about aerospace technology

By Timothy Chipp
Abilene Reporter-News

ABILENE — It's not just "3, 2, 1, blastoff" at the Academy of Technology, Engineering, Math & Science, though rocket science is among the school's offerings.

Aerospace engineering, a subspecialty within the engineering track at the specialized high school on East Highway 80, was launched this year. The school is part of the Abilene Independent School District.

Whether it's learning about the force needed to send a rocket into the sky or how an airplane keeps from crashing, students are tackling many real-world problems.

They'll also have the opportunity for deeper-level study. Texas State Technical College and NASA have made programs available to the aerospace engineering students — or those who simply have an interest in space and science.

"We're taking 30 students to Waco for the Challenger Learning Center," said Tracy Long, an engineering teacher at ATEMS. "They'll actually do a space mission where half of them will be mission control and the other half will be in the shuttle. After it's done, they'll switch roles and do it again."

The Challenger Learning Center, hosted by the TSTC campus in Waco, is part of the Challenger Center for Space Science Education, an international not-for-profit education organization founded by the families of the astronauts who died during the Challenger space shuttle mission.

The center also will host students from the Brownwood Independent School District in February, according to a news release from TSTC.

The Waco-based center is the third of its kind in Texas.

Aerospace engineering involves a great deal of preparation. For senior Josh Murphy, this involves learning in a cockpit. But instead of visiting an actual aircraft, Murphy gets to learn sitting at a computer desk.

Another program first at ATEMS is the school's participation in the Texas High School Aerospace Scholars program. Instructional specialist Jennifer Yates has spent the past two years as a technical reviewer with the Johnson Space Center-affiliated program, but she'd never had any students apply to participate.

This year, ATEMS had three juniors accepted: Jaimalee Cordova, Kia Smith and Moise Ngendahayo.

The students work independently on several projects across engineering, technology, math and science modules, Yates said. As a reward for their hard work, the highest-performing participants — roughly 400 from around the state — get a one-week, expenses-paid trip to work with interns and engineers to complete a space mission at the Johnson Space Center in Houston.

For Smith, the idea of a trip to NASA was a large enough draw to cross over from her studies in ATEMS' information technology track.

She said learning new things is a passion of hers, especially in science.

One of her assignments took her to an online discussion forum, in which program participants were required to research a technology and describe what it is used for. Smith chose the Gecko Gripper. She said her ideas about its use, to safely secure heavier objects to the wall without creating a mess, were accepted by the community.

"They thought it was a very creative idea and that it was very useful," Smith said. "(This program) is a really good opportunity for me to learn about things I normally wouldn't take the time of day to think about. It gives me access to articles I never knew existed and the amount of information is enormous. And it'll also look good on a resume."

Cordova said she also enjoyed taking part in the online discussion about subjects such as technology.

The student, who noted that she's the only female in the school's aerospace engineering program, said she is interested in making it her career.

"I would definitely love working with NASA," Cordova said, "and doing what they do here."

Distributed by The Associated Press

MAKINGTHEGRADE

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Odessa-based Desert Squadron of the Commemorative Air Force has presented two Midland College students with scholarships to continue their studies in aviation maintenance technology.

Chris Villarreal was presented with the Marie Pearson Memorial Scholarship, and **Adam Dutchover** received the Tom Cloyd Memorial Scholarship.

"The CAF Desert Squadron has been very supportive of our program and has awarded several of our students who are now alumni with scholarships in the past," said Thomas Branon, MC Aviation Maintenance program chair.

The aviation maintenance technology program prepares students for careers as aviation airframe and aviation powerplant technicians, according to a press release from MC. After completing the 40-hour certificate program, students are qualified to take Federal Aviation Administration examinations for airframe or powerplant licenses.

* * *

SEARCY, Ark. — Midlander **Loren Cheatham** graduated last month from Harding University.

Cheatham received a bachelor of science in sport and recreation management.

* * *

LEBANON, Ill. — Midlander **Zachary Breeding** has been named to the Dean's List for the fall semester at McKendree University.

To be eligible, students must maintain a GPA of at least 3.6.

* * *

DENTON — Numerous Midlanders have been named to the honor rolls for the fall semester at the University of North Texas.

Named to the President's List were **Kolton Cotton, Grant Edmondson, Kimberlea Fox, Nicky Hoang** and **Saul Padilla Colmenero.**

Named to the Dean's List were **Hailey Balch, Astara Blain, Naomi Borrero-Flores, Darian Chambers, Claire Hardeman, Kimber Jeeter, Laura Kidder, Jacob Moreno, Thomas Murphy, Shelby Rogers, Emily Shuler, Sara Smith** and **Marissa Tovalin.**

To be eligible for the President's List, students must maintain a 4.0 GPA. For the Dean's List, they must maintain a GPA of at least 3.5.

Obama administration spent billions, did not fix worst schools

By Emma Brown
Washington Post

WASHINGTON — One of the Obama administration's signature efforts in education, which pumped billions of federal dollars into overhauling the nation's worst schools, failed to produce meaningful results, according to a federal analysis.

Test scores, graduation rates and college enrollment were no different in schools that received money through the School Improvement Grants program — the largest federal investment ever targeted to failing schools — than in schools that did not.

The Education Department published the findings on the website of its research division on Wednesday, hours before President Barack Obama's political appointees walked out the door.

"We're talking about millions of kids who are assigned to these failing schools, and we just spent several billion dollars promising them things were going to get better," said Andy Smarick, a resident fellow at the American Enterprise Institute who has long been skeptical that the Obama administration's strategy would work. "Think of what all that money could have been spent on instead."

The School Improvement Grants program has been around since the administration of President George W. Bush, but it received an enormous boost under Obama. The administration funneled $7 billion into the program between 2010 and 2015 — far exceeding the $4 billion it spent on Race to the Top grants.

The money went to states to distribute to their poorest-performing schools — those with exceedingly low graduation rates, or poor math and reading test scores, or both. Individual schools could receive up to $2 million per year for three years, on the condition that they adopt one of the Obama administration's four preferred measures: replacing the principal and at least half the teachers, converting into a charter school, closing altogether, or undergoing a "transformation," including hiring a new principal and adopting new instructional strategies, new teacher evaluations and a longer school day.

The Education Department did not track how the money was spent, other than to note which of the four strategies schools chose.

Arne Duncan, Obama's education secretary from 2009 to 2016, said his aim was to turn around 1,000 schools every year for five years. "We could really move the needle, lift the bottom and change the lives of tens of millions of underserved children," Duncan said in 2009.

Duncan often said that the administration's school improvement efforts did not get the attention they deserved, overshadowed by more-controversial efforts to encourage states to adopt new standards and teacher evaluations tied to tests.

The school turnaround effort, he said days before he left office in 2016, was arguably the administration's "biggest bet."

He and other administration officials sought to highlight individual schools that made dramatic improvements after receiving the money. But the new study released last week shows that, as a large-scale effort, School Improvement Grants failed. Just a tiny fraction of schools chose the most dramatic measures, according to the new study. Three percent became charter schools, and 1 percent closed. Half the schools chose transformation.

Helping kids handle 'Trump Effect' in our nation's schools

ESTHER J. CEPEDA
Washington Post Writers Group



A new study by the Southern Poverty Law Center, a civil rights advocacy organization, says that more than two-thirds of 2,000 teachers surveyed reported students — mainly immigrants, children of immigrants and Muslims — expressing concerns or fears about what might happen to them or their families during a Trump presidency.

Since the election, more than half of teachers have seen an increase in uncivil political discourse in their schools or classrooms, and more than one-third report having observed an increase in anti-Muslim or anti-immigrant sentiment.

The study, titled "The Trump Effect: The impact of the presidential campaign on our nation's schools," cites a Virginia elementary school teacher who said that students are "crying in the classroom and having meltdowns at home." An Oregon primary-school teacher said her black students are "concerned for their safety because of what they see on TV at Trump rallies." In North Carolina, a high school teacher said she has "Latino students who carry their birth certificates and Social Security cards to school because they are afraid they will be deported."

These are not outlier incidents cherry-picked for effect — Donald Trump-related anxiety was obvious when school started in late summer and ramped up the day after the election.

Both in the school building where I teach and in neighboring districts, not only were the kids keyed up on Nov. 9, a lot of teachers were in near hysterics. In my building, there were teachers who refused to even talk about the election and others who cried in front of students.

At a nearby district, racist language was scrawled on a bathroom door and minority students staged a protest that went viral on social media, prompting my school's students to plan their own walkout.

As the drama unfolded, it occurred to me that the students may not have been as likely to give in to hysteria if the adults in their school buildings had acted less like hyper-partisans and more like grown-ups who could keep their cool. Instead, some of those in charge were making an unpredictable situation even scarier with their emotionality.

I wasn't completely off-base — the next day, our administration sent out guidance from the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) on how to reinforce safe, supportive and positive post-election school environments.

TODAY: Partly sunny	WEDNESDAY: Sunny	THURSDAY: Sunny	FRIDAY: Sunny	SATURDAY: Sunny	SUNDAY: Mostly sunny
High: 63 Low: 33	High: 66 Low: 30	High: 66 Low: 31	High: 66 Low: 29	High: 62 Low: 50	High: 67 Low: 38

Local forecast

The National Weather Service is calling for windy conditions today with gusts reaching 40 mph. Lower temperatures are expected at night with lows at or below freezing most of the week.

The record high for Jan. 23 is 82 set in 1943 and equaled in 1950. The record low is 7, set in 1966. On Jan. 23 of last year, the high was 66 and the low was 30.

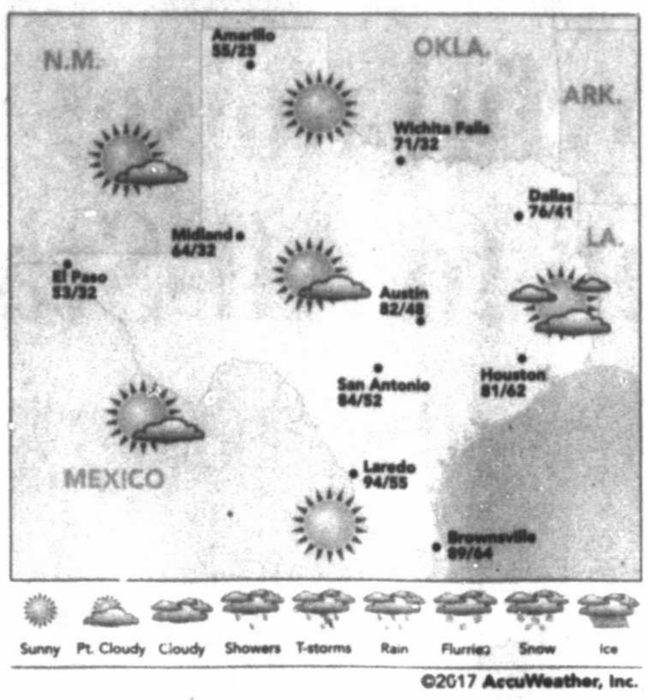
Weather brief

MISSISSIPPI

Officials count 1,100 homes damaged by tornado

HATTIESBURG — A tornado that tore a path across south Mississippi on Saturday damaged or destroyed more than 1,100 homes.

The Mississippi Emergency Management Agency reported Monday that in Forrest County alone, 411 homes were destroyed or suffered major damage Saturday, while 588 saw minor damage. In Lamar County, the twister destroyed or did major damage to 43 homes and minor damage to 52 homes.



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Precipitation

Sunday	0.00 in.
Monday	0.00 in.
Month total	1.12 in.
Year total	1.12 in.
Normal total (year to date)	0.38 in.

Monday's temperatures

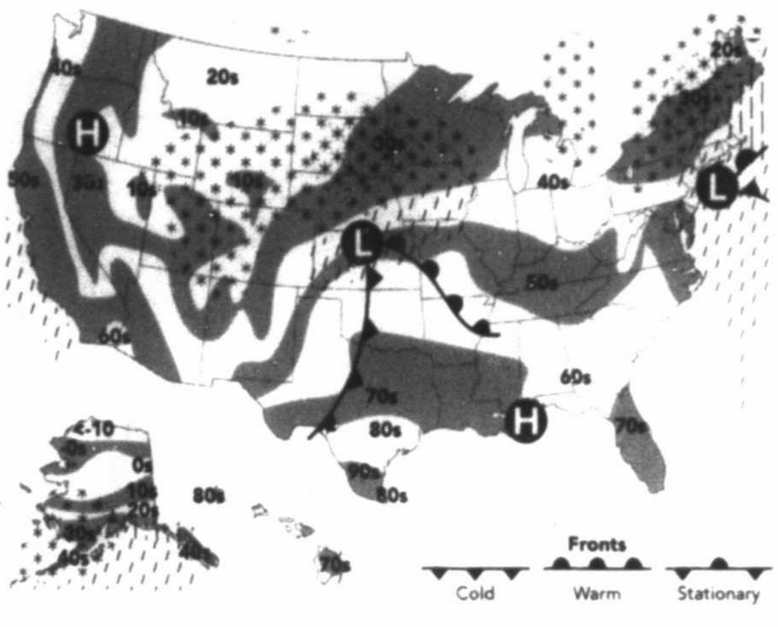
High	76
Low	35
Normal high	58
Normal low	31
Sunrise	7:46 a.m.
Sunset	6:16 p.m.

National weather

AccuWeather.com

Forecast for Tuesday, January 24, 2017

Bands separate high temperature zones for the day.



Mother-in-law's pop-ins make angry wife pop off

DEAR ABBY



Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069. Her column is distributed by Universal Press Syndicate.

DEAR ABBY: My mother-in-law has begun doing the "pop-in." My husband passive-aggressively hinted that he wished he had known she was coming over. Her response was, "I'm your mother; I don't need to let you know when I'm coming over." I regard this as total disrespect.

She has done this plenty of times — including popping in when I was having a dinner with my parents and children, which made her mad because she and my father-in-law hadn't been invited.

She did the pop-in again last week. My husband, four children and I were about to sit down to a family dinner when she rang the doorbell. I didn't have enough food for her and my father-in-law, which made us all uncomfortable. She made a sarcastic comment, "Gee, I guess I shouldn't have come over," then she sat in the living room staring at us as we ate.

I have begged my husband to say something, but he says it would be disrespectful. I said it is disrespectful that she comes over without checking with us first. What's your take on this? — NO POP-INS, PLEASE

DEAR NO POP-INS: You have my sympathy. Your mother-in-law is a handful. Your husband may be so cowed by his mother that he's afraid to assert himself. You are under no obligation to entertain anyone who pops in, including her. The next time she shows up unannounced, remind her to call first and suggest that she come back some other time.

DEAR ABBY: My fiancee has a 15-year-old son, "Jason," who spends countless hours in his room playing Xbox with his buddies. He is loud and obviously has fun, by the sound of it. However, when he comes out for meals, he doesn't communicate or answer questions like, "How was school?" or "What do you think of that?"

My fiancee and I don't live together. We see each other three times a year for two to three weeks at a time. My fiancee says Jason acts the same way whether I'm here or not. He isn't close with his dad, either.

Is this a phase that he will grow out of, or does he need professional help? We get along, but there is never much conversation. I ask questions to encourage interaction, but it hasn't been successful. — FRUSTRATED IN MONTANA

DEAR FRUSTRATED: Whether Jason's going through a phase or not depends on whether he has always had poor verbal skills and ignored questions he was asked. He might be reluctant to answer because he's having problems socially or academically in school, or because the opinions you're asking for concern things he has never given much thought to.

Boys that age are sometimes less verbal than when they are older, and their dependence on social media has contributed to it. Teens who spend most of their time in the virtual world tend to have lower verbal abilities than those who spend less.

If you and your fiancee are truly concerned, she should talk about this with a counselor at Jason's school and ask if counseling or intervention of any kind is needed.

GOREN BRIDGE

With Omar Sharif and Tannah Hirsch

Optional overruff

Neither vulnerable, South deals

NORTH
♠ Q J
♡ A K Q J 10 4
♢ 10 6
♣ J 6 3

WEST
♠ Void
♡ 8 6
♢ A K J 9 8 7 2
♣ 10 7 5 2

EAST
♠ A 10 8
♡ 9 7 5 3 2
♢ 5
♣ Q 9 8 4

SOUTH
♠ K 9 7 6 5 4 3 2
♡ Void
♢ Q 4 3
♣ A K

The bidding:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1♠	3♢	3♢	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	All pass

Opening lead: Ace of ♢

This was a routine auction to a routine final contract. West continued with a second high diamond at trick two and paused to consider the rest of the defense. A heart shift seemed foolish with those massive hearts in dummy. A club shift was possible but West decided that the best chance for the defense was a third round of diamonds.

South ruffed with dummy's queen. East overruffed with the ace and shifted to a club, but declarer was in full control. South won with his ace of clubs and crossed to dummy with the jack of trumps. Showing some flair, South led dummy's ace of hearts and ruffed it. He cashed the king of spades, drawing the last trump, and claimed with good trumps and the king of clubs.

When West became aware of his partner's trump holding, he was disappointed, though he tried his best to keep calm and be a good partner. West had put some thought into the defense at trick three and had found the only play to defeat the contract when he led a third round of diamonds. Had East refused to overruff, his 10 of spades would have become the setting trick later in the play.

A defender should always think twice before ruffing with a sure trump trick. That card will still win a trick later, so there had better be a good reason to use it up by ruffing. East was asleep on this deal. Refusing to overruff should have been an easy play to see.

JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

The stars show the kind of day you'll have: 5-dynamic; 4-positive; 3-average; 2-so-so; 1-difficult

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Tuesday, Jan. 24, 2017:

This year you seem to be riding a wave of good luck, especially if you detach more often and learn to keep your eye on the big picture. You need to be a stern realist when handling your funds; otherwise, you could make an error. You find that your daily life seems to present an interesting twist, no matter what you are doing. If you are single, you never know who you are going to meet next! Someone highly educated could make you smile. If you are attached, you and your sweetie will want to travel more. In fact, just planning a trip could be meaningful and fun for both of you. SAGITTARIUS is always a friend.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) ★★★★ Keep your priorities in mind. Daylight hours are likely to be more successful than those later in the day. Focus on a key project and meeting. You will be pleased by what comes out of these encounters. Clear out as much as you can, and remain focused. Tonight: Chill out.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) ★★★ You might not be aware of how much a boss needs your presence and feedback. Today, you get an indication of this person's needs. At times, you could be overwhelmed by his or her dependency. You know how to make others feel secure. Tonight: Find your friends.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) ★★★★★ Relate closely to a partner. You'll find that although you interact well, both of you could be overwhelmed by all the choices that face you. The two of you are very different, yet you arrive at the same conclusion. Just keep exploring different approaches. Tonight: Out late.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) ★★★★ Others love to be around you, and vice versa. However, resist becoming too dominant in a meeting, even if it is made up of your fan club. You might believe that you have made the right decision, but so do others. Try not to have a conflict. Tonight: A close encounter.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) ★★★ All work and no play doesn't suit you. Nevertheless, you'll discover how important it is to stay focused on a certain serious conversation. You will see the results later in the day, or perhaps tomorrow. Tonight: Trust your choices, especially when it comes to having fun.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ★★★★ Tap into your ingenuity for a solution. A loved one might be critical, but he or she also is not getting the whole story, even if you have provided him or her with all the facts. Know that people can absorb only so much information at a time. Tonight: Keep it light and easy.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ★★★★ Use your excellent ability to be creative. Trying to be anchored and upbeat at the same time could be quite challenging today. Loosen up and relax. You might need to clear up a domestic matter before you can really move on. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ★★★★★ Ask all the questions you need to in order to get verification. It is better to be too careful than not careful enough. Don't let a call slip through your fingers, as it could be important, though you might not realize it at first. Tonight: Catch up on a close friend's news.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ★★★★ You usually are good with financial matters, but a personal issue might be making it difficult to handle certain situations and areas of your life that usually flow. You could feel overwhelmed by a loved one's request. Tonight: Balance your checkbook before deciding.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ★★★ In the daylight hours, you'll discover how fatigue really feels. You might opt for more than one power nap today. It probably would benefit you to also clear your mind about a career matter or a situation at work that is stressing you out. Tonight: Put on your dancing shoes.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ★★★★ Hang out with friends as much as you can. You will be happiest when socializing. You might have difficulty focusing for long periods of time. A serious conversation could take place between you and a friend. Do not fight, but respect your differences. Tonight: Get some extra R and R.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) ★★★★ You might be the apple of your boss's eye, so it is likely that he or she is observing how you handle various situations. Avoid becoming uptight if you think someone is criticizing you. Stay calm, as your temper could emerge more easily than it has in the past. Tonight: At home.

BORN TODAY

Singer/songwriter Neil Diamond (1941), comedian John Belushi (1949), comedian Kristen Schaal (1978)

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Foot-in-mouth incident
6 Blue ox of folklore
10 Pork or lamb cut
14 Indian or Iranian
15 Tag sale condition
16 Helen of Troy's mother
17 Golf stroke played from sand
19 Wrinkle remover
20 Remarkable times
21 Homes of blue-plate specials
23 "The Simpsons" creator Groening
26 Apple mobile platform
28 __ fit: tantrum
29 Readily available
31 Jerry of "Law & Order"
34 Act division
35 Irritated incessantly
36 Canadian Thanksgiving mo.
39 Hesitant sounds
40 Tire-inflating aid
42 Part of rpm
43 John of England
44 Softens, with "down"
45 In an unfriendly way
47 Bitterness
49 Skippers on ponds
50 Torah teacher
52 Napoleon or Nero: Abbr.
54 Rainbow flag letters
55 Digital library contents
57 Bone-dry
59 Hit the runway
60 Lakota chief at Little Bighorn, and what's literally found in this puzzle's circles
66 Skin breakout
67 Poker pot starter
68 Longtime NBC newsman Roger
69 Classic Jaguars
70 Recent returnees to Los Angeles
71 Oft-poached fruit

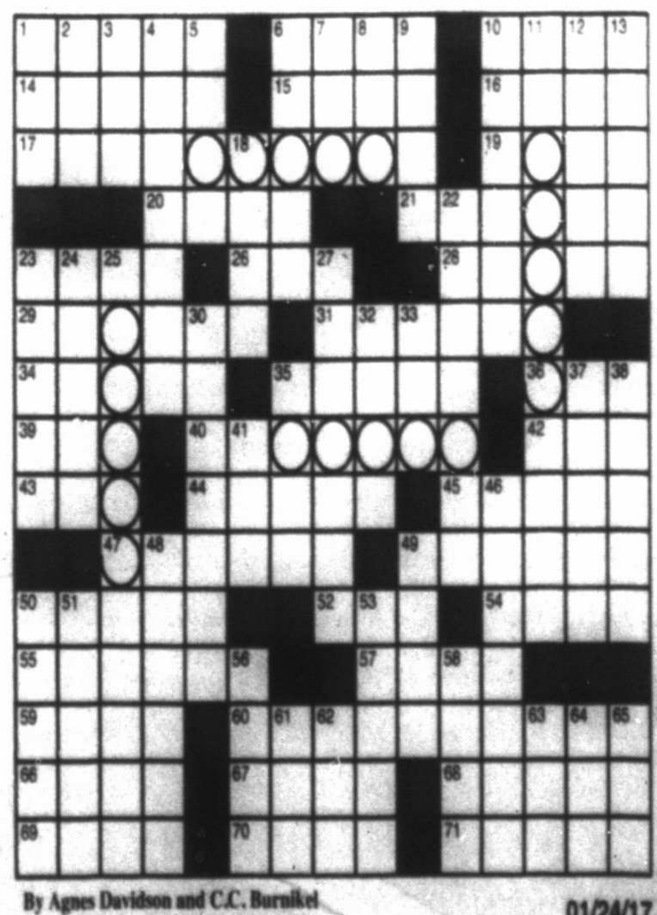
DOWN

1 Chatter away
2 Sun Devils sch.
3 First sign of a shark
4 Faux glow
5 Part of DOE: Abbr.
6 Low voice
7 Blond shade
8 Short life story?
9 Abbr. on a cornerstone
10 Treatment facility
11 "Wish me luck!"
12 Smells
13 Cultivated violet
18 Roach spray brand
22 Critic's harsh words
23 City in northern Iraq
24 Dried chili pepper
25 Historic educational center of Paris Latin Quarter
27 "Neener neener!"
30 Clutter-averse type
32 Vintage cars named with the initials of their company's founder
33 Music majors' degs.
35 River of Florence
37 Fanzine figure
38 Romantic rendezvous
41 Org. with a five-ring logo
46 Brewski
48 Dwellings
49 Agile
50 "Just chill!"
51 Taken __ shocked
53 Puzzles with dead-end paths
56 Lasting mark
58 Chain famous for breakfasts
61 Genetic letters
62 All-hrs. cash source
63 Belfast-born actor Stephen
64 McCartney's title
65 Golf Hall of Famer Ernie

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

S	P	E	C		C	O	S			H	O	S	T	A
P	U	S	H		A	T	O	P		A	S	N	A	P
A	N	C	I	E	N	T	L	A	N	G	U	A	G	E
			N	C	O		V	I	I			F	U	R
E	N	C	O	U	N	T	E	R	G	R	O	U	P	S
X	E	R		A	I	R		S	H	O	W			
G	O	O	D		Z	O	O			B	E	L	A	
I	N	C	O	M	E	T	A	X	R	E	T	U	R	N
	S	I	N	E			T	R	U		O	N	E	A
			N	A	B	S		A	N	D		D	N	A
O	N	C	A	L	L	P	H	Y	S	I	C	I	A	N
V	I	A			U	A	E		A	V	A			
U	N	C	H	A	R	T	E	D	W	A	T	E	R	S
L	E	T	O	N		E	L	S	A		C	L	U	E
E	R	I	E	S			S	L	Y		H	O	S	E

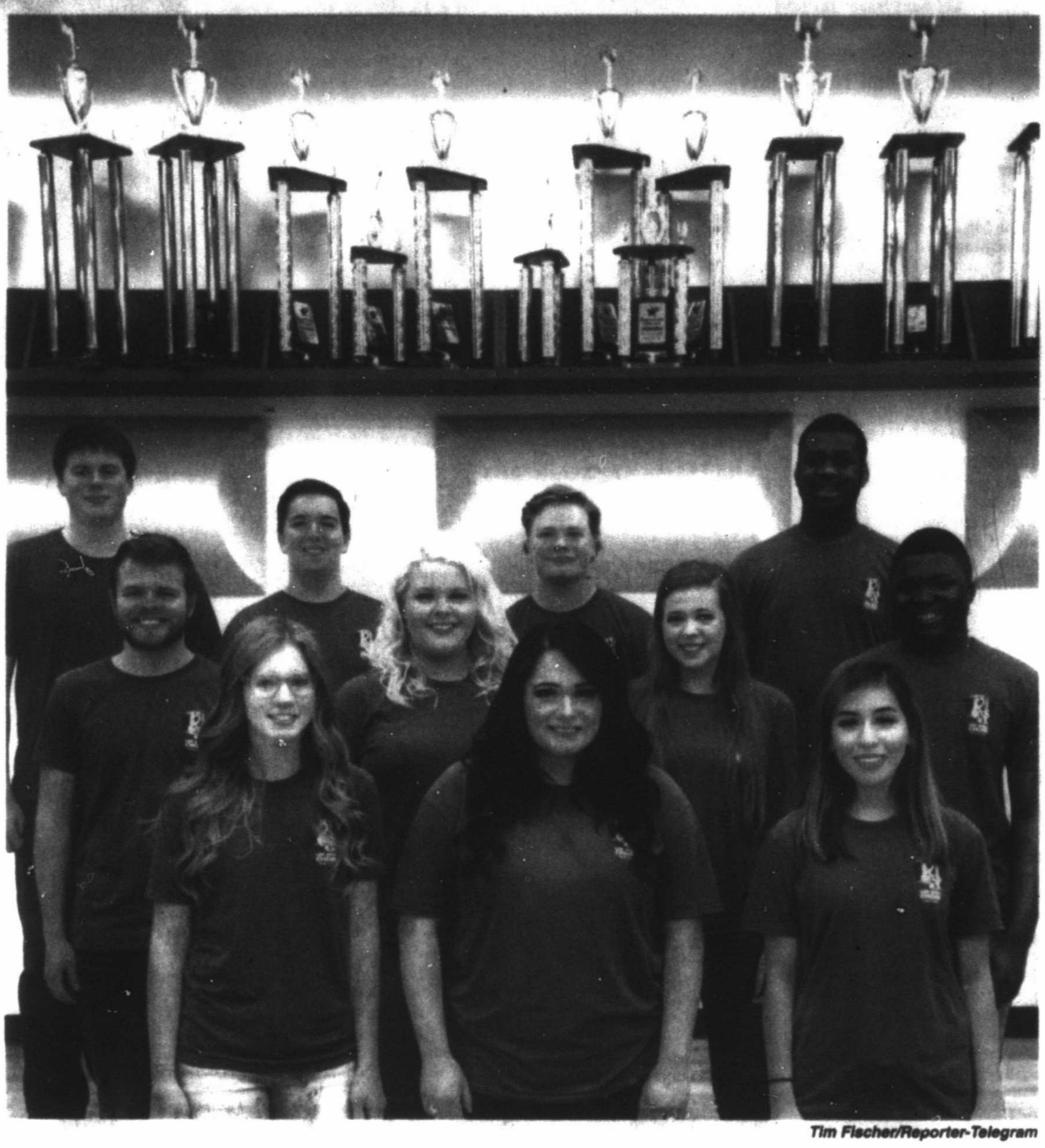
xworded itor@aol.com 01/24/17



By Agnes Davidson and C.C. Burnikel
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Making a joyful noise: 11 Lee students named to All-State Choir

Eleven Lee High School choir students were named to the All-State Choir during auditions on Jan. 7 at LHS. They will perform with other All-State Choir students at the Texas Music Educators Convention, which is Feb. 8-11 in San Antonio.



Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram

11 members of the Lee High choir were selected as All-State students; front: Aubry Jarman, Krystina Arguello, Annelisa Martinez, second row: Gus Pollock, Savannah Waltenbaugh, Canlyn Korner, Christian Shedwin, back row: David Anderson, Cannon Hawkins, Zachary Harrell and Charles Johnson.

David Anderson, senior

■ **Voice part:** Bass II
■ **All-State ensemble:** Mixed Choir
■ **Extracurricular activities:** Chorale and Origin
■ **Other honors:** Two-year member of Region Choir, Pre-Area Choir and Area Choir; choir officer; 2016 Homecoming Choir Beaux
■ **What does it mean to you to be an All-State performer:** Being an All-State performer is such an honor. It is a wonderful opportunity to represent Lee High School and MISD. I look forward to performing with other talented musicians from the state.
■ **Why are the fine arts important to education:** Fine arts, music, is a powerful tool that allows students like me to be creative and develop self-discipline in their school and community.
■ **Favorite moment in your fine arts discipline:** Performing in our annual Renaissance Madrigal Dinner and the many Origin performances all over Midland.

Krystina Arguello, senior

■ **Voice part:** Alto I
■ **All-State ensemble:** Mixed Choir
■ **Extracurricular activities:** Chorale, Origin and National Honor Society
■ **Other honors:** Two-year member of Region Choir, Pre-Area Choir and Area Choir
■ **What does it mean to you to be an All-State performer:** Through months of preparation, countless hours of practice and with the guidance of my wonderful directors and voice teacher — to be able to be an All-State performer is such a great honor that I will cherish forever.
■ **Why are the fine arts important to education:** The fine arts are important in education because the arts build confidence, determination and self-worth in students. The arts help students find who they are and how much they are truly capable of.
■ **Favorite moment in fine arts discipline:** Being able to recognize the growth in my vocal talent throughout these past seven years in choir, and how far I have come.

Zach Harrell, senior

■ **Voice part:** Bass I
■ **All-State ensemble:** Tenor-Bass Choir
■ **Extracurricular activities:** Chorale, Origin and Future Farmers of America
■ **Other honors:** Three-year member of Region Choir, two-year member of Pre-Area Choir and Area Choir, 2016-2017 Chorale section leader
■ **What does it mean to you to be an All-State performer:** This honor means a lot to me because I have worked since last June on all of this music. The many hours and days that I practiced my music for months paid off with making the Texas All-State Choir.
■ **Why are the fine arts important to education:** The fine arts have provided me the opportunity to sing and study many languages (French, German, Italian and Latin), and I have improved greatly on time management.
■ **Favorite moment in your fine arts discipline:** The feeling of accomplishments when our performing choirs receive Superior Ratings and Sweepstakes at UIL Choir Contest. Our hard work and goals pay off.

Cannon Hawkins, senior

■ **Voice part:** Bass I
■ **All-State ensemble:** Tenor-Bass Choir
■ **Extracurricular activities:** Chorale and Origin
■ **Other honors:** Two-year member of Region Choir and Pre-Area Choir
■ **What does it mean to you to be an All-State performer:** To me, being an All-State Choir member is a very prestigious accolade. Not only is it because the Texas All-State Choir is highly respected, but is a prime example of how hard work and practice truly does pay off. Also, this honor can provide college scholarships with it.
■ **Why are the fine arts important to education:** I feel like the fine arts are important because it gives students the opportunity to release themselves from their stress in school. When you are making music together as one voice with many parts, nothing can take you away from it — unless the bell rings to change classes.
■ **Favorite moment in your fine arts discipline:** My favorite fine arts moment was hearing my name called as a sixth chair All-State member for 2017. Everybody has something in them that drives them to be successful. For me, it is my competitive nature, and that drive that started in August 2016 would not have been so special if I had not crossed the finish line on Jan. 7, 2017. A special thank you to my directors, Mr. Trenton Davis and Mrs. Kayla Rigney, Casey Wood, as well as my amazing family for always being the love and support that fueled my drive to be a 2017 Texas All-Stater.

Aubry Jarman, junior

■ **Voice part:** Alto I
■ **All-State ensemble:** Treble Choir
Extracurricular activities: Midland College theater program, Pickwicks, Student Council and National Honor Society
■ **Other honors:** Two-year member of Region Choir and Student Council
■ **What does it mean to you to be an All-State performer:** To be an All-Stater is a huge honor. I am more excited for the opportunity it gives me rather than the title. The experience it provides is what I value, and I cannot wait to perform with so many phenomenal singers.
■ **Why are the fine arts important to education:** There are people who get 36s on the ACT, and there are people who make All-State. Sometimes they can be the same person but everyone has different strengths. The fine arts allow students to validate themselves outside of core classes and standardized assessments.
■ **Favorite moment in your fine arts discipline:** My favorite moment has always been the performance. We spent weeks learning rhythms, tone, diction and countless other musical techniques, and it is all for just a few minutes on stage. But that's when it all comes together. That is when the practice becomes worth it. That is when the notes become music.

Charles Johnson, senior

■ **Voice part:** Bass II
■ **All-State ensemble:** Tenor-Bass Choir
■ **Extracurricular activities:** Theater, one-act play, Chorale and Origin
■ **Other honors:** Two-year member of Region Choir, Pre-Area Choir and Area Choir, One-Act Play Best Actor and One-Act Play Honorable Mention
■ **What does it mean to you to be an All-State performer:** I've been working rigorously for two years to get to where I am now, and finally being an All-State performer I have achieved this long-term goal.
■ **Why are the fine arts important to education:** For some people, it gives them a reason to want to learn. Fine arts is education.
■ **Favorite moment in your fine arts discipline:** My favorite moment was receiving my first major role in a musical. The feeling of being able to show my talent to people was an honor.

Canlyn Korner, senior

■ **Voice part:** Alto II
■ **All-State ensemble:** Treble Choir
■ **Extracurricular activities:** Chorale and Origin
■ **Other honors:** Two-year member of Region Choir, Pre-Area Choir and Area Choir
■ **What does it mean to you to be an All-State performer:** It is an absolute honor to be a part of this choir. There are not words for how proud and accomplished I feel — not only in myself, but everyone else who auditioned. It's so nice to see our hard work pay off.
■ **Why are the fine arts important to education:** The fine arts are important to education because it allows us to get away from the craziness of academic classes and do something we enjoy.
■ **Favorite moment in your fine arts discipline:** I do not think it is possible for me to pick just one. Making the All-State Choir, going to Europe, Mo Ranch, the people you meet in choir. It's all amazing. Choir allows me to do something I truly love with some of the most wonderful dedicated students and directors.

Annelisa Martinez, junior

■ **Voice part:** Alto II
■ **All-State ensemble:** Treble Choir
■ **Extracurricular activities:** Chorale
■ **Other honors:** Member of Region Choir and Division I rating at solo and ensemble contest
■ **What does it mean to you to be an All-State performer:** To be an All-State performer is such an honor and truly pushes me to pursue a career in music.
■ **Why are the fine arts important to education:** For some people, it gives them a reason to want to learn. Fine arts is education.
■ **Favorite moment in your fine arts discipline:** My favorite moment was this past All-State rounds of auditions. This journey allowed me to see what I was capable of with discipline and hard work.

Gus Pollock, senior

■ **Voice part:** Bass II
■ **All-State ensemble:** Tenor-Bass Choir
■ **Extracurricular activities:** Boy Scouts, National Honor Society and debate
■ **Other honors:** Three-year member of All-Region Choir, Pre-Area Choir and Area Choir, and 2016-2017 choir president
■ **What does it mean to you to be an All-State performer:** To be selected to participate in a music-making experience with other dedicated musicians all over Texas.
■ **Why are the fine arts important to education:** The fine arts promote the education of culture and a sense of camaraderie between other members with the same goals and aspirations.
■ **Favorite moment in your fine arts discipline:** Being able to take a trip to Croatia and Italy to tour and perform in famous cathedrals and churches.

Christian B. Shedwin, sophomore

■ **Voice part:** Tenor I
■ **All-State ensemble:** Tenor-Bass Choir
■ **Extracurricular activities:** honor band, theater and debate
■ **What does it mean to you to be an All-State performer:** To me, being an All-State performer is a huge honor, and I am so proud of myself and my colleagues that auditioned and made it. To me, it means that I have reached my goal of the year and all my hard work has paid off.
■ **Why are the fine arts important to education:** The fine arts are important because they allow you to grow. Without music, the world would be a very dark and dull place. Some people use music to study. Others use it to learn. In my education, it is an amazing tool that works in all aspects of my life.
■ **Favorite moment in your fine arts discipline:** My favorite moment in my fine arts discipline would have to be the performing aspect. It gets a little scary with everyone staring at you, but you know in your head that they are there to support you.

Savannah Waltenbaugh, senior

■ **Voice part:** Soprano II
■ **All-State ensemble:** Treble Choir
■ **Extracurricular activities:** Chorale and Origin
■ **Other honors:** Two-year member of Region Choir, Pre-Area Choir and Area Choir, 2016 All-State Women's Choir, 2016-2017 LHS choir officer, received Division I ratings three years in a row for solo and ensemble contest
■ **What does it mean to you to be an All-State performer:** To me it is a showcase of dedication and passion for choral music. At TMEA, you are given a professional yet fun experience. There is nothing in the state of Texas offered to young musicians quite like it.
■ **Why are the fine arts important to education:** Fine arts are important to education because it is a creative outlet for kids and teens. I have made life-long friends and unforgettable memories being a part of choral programs. That, in itself, a large factor that helped me determine that becoming a music educator was my dream.
■ **Favorite moment in your fine arts discipline:** This is a difficult question to answer because each moment is equally appreciated. Though I think the moments that top all are when you begin to interpret music in a way that is more than just notes on staff. Emotion and expression are necessary to connect to music and your audience. When you have successfully made that connection, the feeling is undeniably overwhelming and unexplainable. Those moments are unlike any other.

Editor's note: This information was provided by Midland ISD. To announce other All-State students, contact Managing Editor Mary Dearen at mdearen@mrt.com or 687-8852.

HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL REPORT

MHS finding footing in District 2-6A play

By Christopher Hadorn
chadorn@mrt.com

A big weight was lifted off the shoulders of the Midland High girls basketball team Friday at Odessa High.

The Lady Bulldogs picked up their first District 2-6A win with a 53-38 victory over the host Lady Bronchos.

Not only did MHS (10-15, 1-4) close out the first half of district with a much needed win, but it only sits one game out of the fourth and final playoff spot.

And the good news is that Midland High finally played a well-rounded game at OHS on Friday.

"We played four quarters," MHS head coach Wes Torres. "We ran probably the best offense that we've run all year long, we executed offensively and we did a good job of limiting their really good players to some tough offensive opportunities. They had a hard time of getting great looks against us and then we played the whole game. We played all four quarters. At the end, when they made a run at us, we responded each time."

Lady Bulldogs freshman point guard Taysha Rushton is playing her best basketball too. Rushton scored a team-high 17 points against Odessa High, only three days after recording a game-high 18 points in a loss to rival Lee.

Torres says Rushton is prospering because of the play of his post players.

"Her success last Friday was due in large part to our post play," Torres said. "Our (forwards) and (posts) — Brittney Garza, Kaylyn Evans, Racey Haile — they did a tremendous job of executing our zone offense, which in turn, opened up things on the outside for our guards."

At 6 p.m. today at Chaparral Center, Midland High opens up the second half by hosting first-place Wolfforth Frenship (21-7, 5-0).

Frenship raced to a 15-4 first-quarter lead during a 54-42 win over MHS in the District 2-6A opener on Jan. 7.

"Their press is tough," Torres said. "They can shoot the ball. It makes it a difficult task. That being said, we had many opportunities to close the gap against them

Please see **REPORT**/2C



James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram

Midland High's Taysha Rushton (14) moves the ball against Lee's Karysa Edwards (4) on Jan. 17 at Chaparral Center.

Chaps drop home game

Cardenas' heroics fall short in loss to NMJC

By Oscar LeRoy
oleroy@mrt.com

Midland College men's basketball coach Jordan Dreiling raves about the work ethic of sophomore Juan Cardenas.

The soft-spoken 6-foot-7 forward from Colombia always goes about his business and consistently plays hard.

Cardenas tried his best to keep the Chaparrals in Monday's game against New Mexico Junior College but the Chaps' struggles from the floor and from the free-throw line proved to be too much to overcome as the Thunderbirds took a key 68-58 Western Junior College Athletic Conference victory at Chaparral Center.

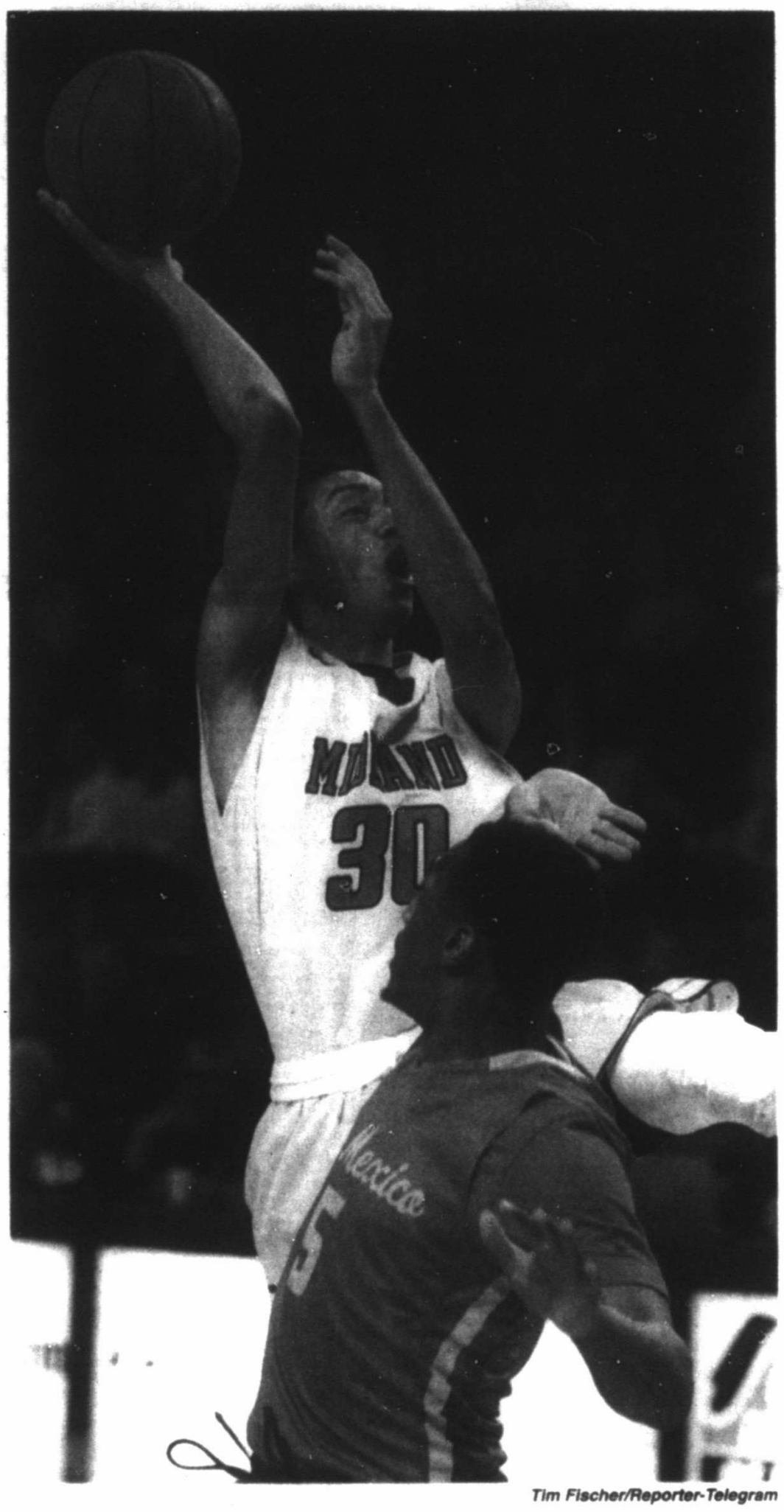
This was a costly loss for the Chaps (12-8, 3-3), who dropped their second straight home game and have rival and ranked Odessa College coming to Chaparral Center on Thursday.

"Life goes on and we just have to move forward from this game and continue to always get better," Cardenas said. "This next game is the most important game because we have to come together and play as a unit in order for us to win."

MC shot just 34.9 percent from the floor, including a cold 1-for-14 showing from 3-point range. The Chaps were also just 13 of 27 from the charity stripe. That spoiled a great game from Cardenas, who finished with a game-high 24 points and eight rebounds.

"(The Thunderbirds) hit a lot of contested jump shots and we didn't hit shots," Dreiling said. "Outside of Juan and (Daven Joseph), we didn't really hit shots. We played harder, we really did. We owned the glass, we met our goal on the offensive rebounds.

Please see **CHAPS**/3C



Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram

Midland College's Juan Cardenas pulls up for a shot as New Mexico Junior College's Roosevelt Smart defends Monday at Chaparral Center.

Lady Chaps slump in home loss to No. 6 NMJC

By Oscar LeRoy
oleroy@mrt.com

New Mexico Junior College women's basketball coach Drew Sanders said getting a win at Chaparral Center is never easy.

The No. 6-ranked Lady Thunderbirds sure made it look easy on Monday night.

NMJC got out to an early double-digit lead and No. 22 Midland College never recovered as the Lady T-Birds walked out of Chaparral Center with a 76-57 Western Junior College Athletic Conference victory.

This was not the kind of performance the Lady Chaparrals were looking for to begin a tough week in the WJCAC, as they host No. 1 Odessa College on Thursday night.

The Lady Chaps (13-6, 3-3) will definitely have to play a lot better than they did on Monday as they again struggled shooting, especially from 3-point range (7 of 24) and turned the ball over 24 times.

"The other team was much more aggressive than we were and they won, and won handily," MC coach Ron Jones said. "They were more physical than we were. I thought we were tentative. As soon as (NMJC) hit some shots to start the game, I could see our heads drop. We were just not where we needed to be mentally to play that game. When you give up that many points on turnovers and second-chance points, you're not giving yourself

Please see **LADY CHAPS**/3C



Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram

Midland College's Teneshia Dixon tries to drive to the basket as New Mexico Junior College's Alexis Winters is called for a hold Monday at Chaparral Center.

Super Bowl will pit Brady's Patriots against Ryan's Falcons



Brady



Ryan

By Howard Fendrich
Associated Press

A season that began with Tom Brady serving a four-game suspension will end with him in the Super Bowl, where his New England Patriots will take on Matt Ryan and the Atlanta Falcons.

While much of the attention between now and the NFL championship game on Feb. 5 in Houston will be focused on Brady vs. Ryan, the truly key matchup could be Atlanta's score-at-will offense, which produced the most points during the regular season, against the unheralded defense of New England, which allowed the fewest.

And these two teams are playing their best football at the most important time.

AFC champion New England (16-2) has won nine consecutive games — and hasn't even trailed since Nov. 27. NFC champion Atlanta (13-5) has won its past six in a row, scoring at least 33 points in each.

"We'll enjoy this," Ryan said after earning his first Super Bowl trip in his ninth season, "but we've got some work to do."

Brady and coach Bill Belichick will be seeking their — and the Patriots' — fifth Lombardi Trophy, and second in three years. This will be the franchise's league-record ninth appearance in the Super Bowl, including titles in the 2002, 2004, 2005 and 2015 editions.

"This team showed a lot of mental toughness over the course of the year," Brady said.

The Falcons have never won the Super Bowl. This will be Atlanta's second trip to the big game; it lost to Denver in 1999.

The club's never had a quarterback quite as good as Ryan, though.

The guy nicknamed "Matty Ice" went 27 for 38 for 392 yards, four touchdowns and zero interceptions, while adding a rushing TD, to boot, leading Atlanta past Aaron Rodgers and the Green Bay Packers 44-21 on Sunday in the NFC championship game.

"We did exactly what we've been doing all year and it feels really good," Ryan said after becoming the first quarterback in NFL history to throw for at least three TDs in four consecutive postseason games. "We'll be ready to go. That's for sure."

Later Sunday, the 39-year-old Brady tied Hall of Famer Joe Montana's record with a ninth three-TD postseason game, helping the Patriots beat Ben Roethlisberger 36-17 for the AFC championship.

Oddsmakers didn't even wait for the second game to end before making New England a 3-point favorite over Atlanta in the Super Bowl.

New England opened the season with a 3-1 record despite using two backup quarterbacks while playing those games without Brady after he

Please see **SUPER BOWL**/4C

DAILYRUNDOWN

FROM STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

ON THE AIR

ON TV

CRICKET

Big Bash Semifinal: Perth Scorchers vs. Melbourne Stars, 2 p.m., NBCSN

GOLF

PGA: The Bahamas Great Abaco Classic, 3rd Round, 2 p.m., GOLF

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Auburn at South Carolina, 5:30 p.m., SEC

Kansas at West Virginia, 6 p.m., ESPN

Purdue at Michigan State, 6 p.m., ESPN2

Louisville at Pitt, 6 p.m., ESPNU

Rutgers at Maryland, 6 p.m., BTN

Southern Illinois at Wichita State, 6 p.m., CBSSN

Villanova at Marquette, 7 p.m., FS1

Arkansas at Vanderbilt, 7:30 p.m., SEC

Kentucky at Tennessee, 8 p.m., ESPN

Kansas State at Iowa State, 8 p.m., ESPNU

Penn State at Wisconsin, 8 p.m., BTN

Tulane at Houston, 8 p.m., CBSSN

Utah State at New Mexico, 10 p.m., ESPNU

MEN'S SOCCER

Copa del Rey Quarterfinal: Deportivo Alaves vs. AD Alcorcon, 12:20 p.m., beIN2

Africa Cup of Nations: Morocco vs. Ivory Coast, 12:50 p.m., beIN

Copa Italia: Napoli vs. ACF Fiorentina, 1:30 p.m., GolTV

Copa MX: Veracruz vs. Celaya, 6:50 p.m., ESPNDEP

Copa MX: Santos Laguna vs. Deportivo Coras Tepic FC, 6:50 p.m., UDN

Copa MX: Correcaminos UAT vs. Cimarrones de Sonora FC, 8:50 p.m., ESPNDEP

Copa MX: CD Guadalajara vs. Atlante, 8:50 p.m., UDN

Copa MX: Cruz Azul FC vs. CF Alebrijes de Oaxaca, 8:50 p.m., GALA

NBA

San Antonio at Toronto, 6 p.m., FSSW+

NHL

St. Louis at Pittsburgh, 6 p.m., NBCSN

Minnesota at Dallas, 7:30 p.m., FSSW

TENNIS

Australian Open, Quarterfinals, 6 p.m., TENNIS

Australian Open, Quarterfinals, 8 p.m., ESPN2

Australian Open, Quarterfinals, 2:30 a.m., ESPN2

WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Connecticut at East Carolina, 6 p.m., SNY

ON RADIO

NBA

San Antonio at Toronto, 6 p.m., KBYG 106.1 FM/1400 AM (Big Spring)

WHAT'S ON DECK

High school

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Lee at Odessa Permian, 6 p.m.

Wolfforth Frenship vs. MHS, 6 p.m., Chaparral Center

MCA at Abilene Christian, 6 p.m.

Big Spring at Snyder, 6:15 p.m.

Pecos at Greenwood, 6:30 p.m.

Imperial Buena Vista at Midland Christian, 6:30 p.m.

Lubbock Christian at Trinity, 6:30 p.m.

Colorado City at Stanton, 6:30 p.m.

Coahoma at Clyde, 6:30 p.m.

Miles at Forsan, 6:30 p.m.

Loop at Grady, 6:30 p.m.

Garden City at Robert Lee, 6:30 p.m.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Lee at Odessa Permian, 7:30 p.m.

Wolfforth Frenship vs. MHS, 7:30 p.m., Chaparral Center

Imperial Buena Vista at Midland Christian, 7:30 p.m.

MCA at Abilene Christian, 7:30 p.m.

Big Spring at Snyder, 7:30 p.m.

Pecos at Greenwood, 8 p.m.

Lubbock Christian at Trinity, 8 p.m.

Colorado City at Stanton, 8 p.m.

Coahoma at Clyde, 8 p.m.

Miles at Forsan, 8 p.m.

Loop at Grady, 8 p.m.

Garden City at Robert Lee, 8 p.m.

GIRLS SOCCER

Lee at Abilene Cooper, 7 p.m.

PRESEASON NJCAA POLLS

NJCAA Division I Preseason Baseball Rankings

Rank	College	Record
1	Yavapai College	0-0
2	San Jacinto-North	0-0
3	Iowa Western	0-0
4	Chipola College	0-0
5	Cowley County	0-0
6	Chattahoochee Valley	0-0
7	Delgado	0-0
8	Santa Fe	0-0
9	Connors State	0-0
10	**Midland College**	0-0
	Polk State	0-0
12	Neosho County	0-0
13	Walters State	0-0
14	Wabash Valley	0-0
15	Spartanburg Methodist	0-0
16	McLennan CC	0-0
17	Navarro College	0-0
18	Pima CC	0-0
19	Georgia Military	0-0
20	Lake Land	0-0

NJCAA Division I Preseason Softball Rankings

Rank	College	Record
1	Central Florida	0-0
2	Butler CC	0-0
3	Florida Southwestern State	0-0
4	Yavapai College	0-0
5	McLennan CC	0-0
6	Northwest Florida State	0-0
7	Seminole State	0-0
8	Salt Lake CC	0-0
9	San Jacinto-South	0-0
10	Shelton State	0-0
11	Northeastern Oklahoma A&M	0-0
12	Galveston College	0-0
13	Indian River State	0-0
14	Southern Idaho	0-0
15	Eastern Arizona	0-0
16	Jefferson CC	0-0
17	Howard College	0-0
18	Pima CC	0-0
19	Georgia Military	0-0
20	Lake Land	0-0

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL

American League

CHICAGO WHITE SOX — Agreed to terms with INFs Cody Asche and Everth Cabrera. LHPs John Holmberg and Cory Luebke. C Roberto Pena and Geovany Soto and RHPs Blake Smith and Anthony Swarzak on minor league contracts.

SEATTLE MARINERS — Promoted Jack Mumaw to director, major league operations. Jesse Smith to director, baseball analytics, and Tim Stanton to coordinator, amateur scouting. Named Ian Shaw coordinator, professional & international scouting; James Roche coordinator, player development; and Joel Firman quantitative analyst.

National League

CINCINNATI REDS — Named Orlando Mercado hitting coach, Chad Cordero bullpen coach and Alex Puskarich strength conditioning coach for Billings (Pioneer).

Frontier League

EVANSVILLE OTTERS — Signed OF Brandon Soat.

FLORENCE FREEDOM — Signed RHP Jose Flores and OF d'Aundray Van Slyke.

JOLIET SLAMMERS — Received RHP Nick Cunningham from Trois-Rivieres (Can-Am) for a player to be named.

NORMAL CORNBELTERS — Signed 1B Aaron Dudley to a contract extension.

RIVER CITY RASCALS — Signed OF Ryan Cook.

WINDY CITY THUNDERBOLTS — Signed C Scott Morton.

BASKETBALL

National Basketball Association

MINNESOTA TIMBERWOLVES — Signed a letter of intent to purchase majority ownership of Iowa (NBADL).

SAN ANTONIO SPURS — Signed F Joel Anthony to a 10-day contract.

FOOTBALL

National Football League

CLEVELAND BROWNS — Agreed to terms with LB Jamie Collins Sr. on a four-year contract.

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES — Agreed to terms with wide receivers coach Mike Groh.

WASHINGTON REDSKINS — Promoted Matt Cavanaugh to offensive coordinator. Greg Manusky to defensive coordinator. Chad Englehart to strength and conditioning coach. Named Kevin O'Connell quarterbacks coach, Jim Tomsula defensive line coach and Kavan Latham assistant strength and conditioning coach. Re-signed LS Nick Sundberg.

HOCKEY

National Hockey League

DETROIT RED WINGS — Assigned F Drew Miller to Grand Rapids (AHL).

OTTAWA SENATORS — Signed F Zack Smith to a four-year contract extension through the 2020-21 season.

MOTORSPORTS

Formula One

F1 — Announced chief executive officer Bernie Ecclestone will become honorary chairman and senior adviser. Named Chase Carey chief executive officer.

SOCCER

Major League Soccer

D.C. UNITED — Signed M Ian Harkes.

MINNESOTA UNITED — Signed D Brent Kallman.

NEW YORK RED BULLS — Signed M Dan Metzger and G Evan Louro.

PORTLAND TIMBERS — Signed D Chance Myers. Re-signed D-M Amobi Okugo. Announced F Dairon Asprilla was returned by Millonarios (Colombia).

North American Soccer League

JACKSONVILLE ARMADA FC — Re-signed D Mechack Jerome.

NEW YORK COSMOS — Signed D Jimmy Mulligan and G Kyle Zobeck.

National Women's Soccer League

WASHINGTON SPIRIT — Acquired the rights to F Arielle Ship and a 2018 draft pick from Seattle for M Diana Matheson.

COLLEGE

FLAGLER — Announced the retirement of men's basketball coach Bo Clark at the end of the 2016-17 season.

FLORIDA GULF COAST — Named Jesse Cormier men's soccer coach.

GEORGE BROWN — Named Tom Valcke baseball coach.

INDIANA STATE — Named Curt Mallory football coach.

PURDUE — Named Derrick Jackson assistant football coach.

SAINT ROSE — Named Reece Vega track and field coach.

SOUTH CAROLINA — Announced the resignation of football analyst Scott Spurrier to become an offensive quality control assistant at South Florida.

NHL GLANCE

Standings

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Montreal	48	28	13	7	63	144	121
Ottawa	45	25	15	5	55	122	120
Toronto	45	22	14	9	53	140	131
Boston	50	23	21	6	52	123	129
Florida	48	20	19	9	49	112	135
Detroit	47	20	19	8	48	120	136
Buffalo	46	19	18	9	47	110	128
Tampa Bay	48	21	22	5	47	130	142

Metropolitan Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Washington	47	32	9	6	70	155	101
Columbus	46	32	10	4	68	155	106
Pittsburgh	46	30	11	5	65	169	134
N.Y. Rangers	48	31	16	1	63	167	127
Philadelphia	48	23	19	6	52	136	154
Carolina	47	21	19	7	49	126	137
New Jersey	48	20	19	9	49	110	136
N.Y. Islanders	45	19	17	9	47	129	133

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Minnesota	46	30	11	5	65	152	108
Chicago	49	30	14	5	65	157	128
Nashville	47	23	17	7	53	130	122
St. Louis	47	23	19	5	51	134	147
Winnipeg	50	22	24	4	48	142	154
Dallas	48	19	20	9	47	129	151
Colorado	44	19	20	5	43	89	146

Pacific Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Anaheim	50	27	14	9	63	133	125
San Jose	47	29	16	2	60	125	107
Edmonton	49	26	15	8	60	144	131
Calgary	50	24	23	3	51	130	142
Vancouver	48	22	20	6	50	116	135
Los Angeles	47	22	21	4	48	117	120
Arizona	46	14	26	6	34	102	150

NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss.

Scores and schedule

Monday's Scores

Washington 6, Carolina 1

N.Y. Rangers 3, Los Angeles 2

Toronto 4, Calgary 0

Anaheim 3, Winnipeg 2

Florida at Arizona, late

San Jose at Colorado, late

Today's Games

St. Louis at Pittsburgh, 6 p.m.

Columbus at N.Y. Islanders, 6 p.m.

Los Angeles at New Jersey, 6 p.m.

Detroit at Boston, 6 p.m.

Calgary at Montreal, 6:30 p.m.

Washington at Ottawa, 6:30 p.m.

Buffalo at Nashville, 7 p.m.

San Jose at Winnipeg, 7 p.m.

Tampa Bay at Chicago, 7:30 p.m.

Minnesota at Dallas, 7:30 p.m.

MHS, Lee look to even district records

From staff reports

The Midland High and Lee boys basketball teams will be looking to even their district records when District 2-6A play resumes today.

MHS (10-13, 1-2) is coming off a 66-51 win at Odessa High on Friday after taking the game over with a 35-18 second half surge. The Bulldogs will host upstart Wolfforth Frenship (15-8, 2-1), winners of two straight, at 7:30 p.m. today at Chaparral Center.

Lee, which fell 57-44 to Frenship on Friday, will leave the Chap Center for the first time this district season to take on Odessa Permian (15-10, 2-1) at 7:30 p.m. today at the Permian Field House.

The Rebels (8-16, 1-2) will get a second crack at the Panthers after a 50-33 loss at the Byron Johnston Holiday Classic.

District 2-6A boys basketball standings

Team	District W	District L	Overall W	Overall L
Amarillo Tascosa	2	1	14	5
Odessa Permian	2	1	15	10
Wolfforth Frenship	2	1	15	8
Odessa High	1	2	10	15
Midland High	1	2	10	13
Lee	1	2	8	16

Friday's Scores

Midland High 66, Odessa High 51; Wolfforth Frenship 57, Lee 44; Amarillo Tascosa 69, Odessa Permian 36

Today's games

Wolfforth Frenship at Midland High; Lee at Odessa Permian; Odessa High at Amarillo Tascosa. All games at 7:30 p.m.

REPORT

From 1C

the first time. It was similar to the (Amarillo) Tascosa game where we gave up a couple of big runs, it kind of kept us out of the flow of getting back into the game.

"I think our girls will compete. Like I said before district started, you never know what can happen in this district. I think any team can beat anybody."

Stanton enjoying a growth season

One year after a third-place finish in district and a bi-district round exit in the playoffs, Stanton has taken its play up another notch by posting a 19-5 record and a 4-1 record in District 5-3A.

Last Friday, the Lady Buffaloes raced out to a 23-0 start en route to a 53-35 thumping of Coahoma.

Stanton head coach Jim Kinnear has credited his players' team-first approach for the Lady Buffaloes' progression.

"They come to practice every day, they work hard and they want to get better," Kinnear said. "They have pulled together and they're very unselfish and very determined. They're not concerned with who scores. Right now we are just playing really well."

Stanton is spearheaded by the play of junior point guard Payge Grable and senior wing Alyssa Peterson.

Kinnear says the Lady Buffaloes offense begins with Grable, as she is an adept ball handler that can handle the press and get Stanton into its offensive sets.

Peterson is a good shooter that the Lady Buffaloes depend upon when they need a basket.

"They complement each other," Kinnear said of Grable and Peterson. "They're not concerned who scores more, they just want to win."

On Jan. 17, Stanton lost its only District 5-3A game by falling 59-34 at home to No. 4 Tuscola Jim Ned.

Kinnear said the Lady Buffaloes were hurt by Jim Ned's long-range shooting in the first matchup. The two teams meet again Feb. 4 at Jim Ned.

Garden City continues to thrive with new starters

Despite losing four starters from last year's team that finished the regular season ranked No. 1 in Class 1A, Garden City has continued to excel this season.

The No. 5 Lady Kats have compiled a 19-4 overall record and are currently unbeaten in District 14-1A play with an 8-0 mark.

Defense is one area where Garden City has improved from last year according to head coach Joe Crabb. The Lady Kats employ a defense that consists of trapping and constant pressure.

"We play with a lot of hustle and a lot of grit," Crabb said.

Garden City recently received a boost too with the return of power forward Payton Hastings, who suffered a torn ACL in August.

Hastings teams with her sister Madison to give the Lady Kats two versatile players that can play in the post and that can shoot on the perimeter.

Complementing the Hastings sisters is senior guard Kortney Halfmann, the team's leading scorer.

"She has done a good job of leadership for us," Crabb said of Halfmann.

At 6:30 p.m. today, the Lady Kats visit Robert Lee in what Crabb anticipates will possibly be their toughest game in district this season.

Lee begins 2nd half at Odessa Permian

Fourth-place Lee (14-7, 2-3) visits third-place Odessa Permian (12-11, 3-2) to tip-off the second half of District 2-6A play today at 6 p.m.

In the first half, the Lady Rebels lost three district games by a total of 15 points, which included a four-point loss to first-place Wolfforth Frenship and a three-point loss to second-place Amarillo Tascosa.

"I think we need to continue what we are doing, trust the process and take care of the basketball," Lee head coach Alfred Acosta said. "I think if we learn from our mistakes and execute, we can be fine."

Follow Christopher on Twitter: @chris_MRTsports

District 2-6A girls basketball standings

Team	District W	District L	Overall W	Overall L
Wolfforth Frenship	5	0	21	7
Amarillo Tascosa	4	1	15	9
Odessa Permian	3	2	12	11
Lee	2	3	14	7
Midland High	1	3	10	10
Odessa High	0	5	17	9

All games tip-off at 6 p.m. unless noted

Friday's Scores

Wolfforth Frenship 43, Lee 39; Midland High 53, Odessa High 50; Amarillo Tascosa 65, Odessa Permian 27

Today's games

Wolfforth Frenship vs. Midland High at Chaparral Center; Lee at Odessa Permian; Odessa High at Amarillo Tascosa

PLAYER OF THE WEEK

PF Blaire Neatherlin, Jr., Midland Christian — Neatherlin erupted for 29 points and 17 rebounds in the No. 4 Lady Mustangs' 70-46 TAPPS 1-5A win over Fort Worth Southwest Christian on Friday. Neatherlin also had a team-high 19 points in MCS' 52-33 loss to Midland Classical Jan. 17.

HONOR ROLL

PG Lela Beattie, Fr., Midland Classical — Beattie scored 30 points to propel the No. 2 Lady Knights to a 52-33 over Midland Christian Jan. 17.

SG Kortney Halfmann, Sr., Garden City — Halfmann averaged 17.0 points in the No. 5 Lady Kats' pair of wins.

F Madison Hastings, Jr., Garden City — Hastings scored 25 points in the Lady Kats' 69-44 win over Water Valley on Jan. 17 and 16 points in her team's 64-18 rout of Veribest Friday.

G Reagan Long, Jr., Trinity — Long shined in both of the Lady Chargers' defeats by averaging 20.5 points.

PG Calty Payne, Jr., Greenwood — Payne averaged 20.0 points in leading the Rangerettes to two wins, a 59-56 overtime victory over the Lubbock Titans and a 66-37 triumph over Andrews in District 4-4A play.

PG Taysha Rushton, Fr., Midland High — Rushton led the Lady Bulldogs in points in both games, scoring 18 in a 42-36 loss to Lee and registering 17 points in a 53-38 win over Odessa High.

TABC RANKINGS

SUGAR LAND — High school basketball rankings as compiled by the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches for the week of Jan. 23.

BOYS PUBLIC

Class 6A

1. Klein Forest, 23-0; 2. Houston Sam Houston, 27-1. 3. SA Wagner, 24-1; 4. Cedar Hill, 21-4; 5. Dallas Skyline, 22-1. 6. Garland Lakeview Centennial, 23-3; 7. Cypress Falls, 21-3; 8. Houston Bellaire, 20-7; 9. Fort Bend Bush, 17-4; 10. Edinburg Vela, 22-3. 11 Pearland Dawson, 19-6; 12. Duncanville, 19-5. 13. Austin Westlake, 19-6; 14. Denton Guyer, 19-4; 15. Keller, 21-2. 16. Pearland, 22-5; 17. Laredo United, 18-7; 18. Aldine Davis, 17-7; 19. Laredo Alexander, 24-2; 20. Spring Westfield, 20-7; 21. Spring Dekaney, 18-6; 22. Killeen Ellison, 21-5; 23. Humble Atascocita, 16-8; 24. EP Americas, 24-2; 25. Dickinson, 20-7

Class 5A

1. Waco University, 20-8; 2. Austin LBJ, 17-4; 3. Little Elm, 21-4; 4. Waxahachie, 18-6; 5. Lubbock Coronado, 23-2; 6. Texas City, 18-6; 7. Dallas Wilson, 15-1; 8. Manvel, 17-8; 9. Dallas Kimball, 14-7; 10. Brownsville Veterans Memorial, 25-3; 11. SA Houston, 17-6; 12 Mansfield Timberview, 19-6; 13. Fort Bend Elkins, 17-7; 14. Fort Bend Marshall, 21-6; 15. EP Andress, 17-6; 16. EP Burges, 18-3; 17 FW Chisholm Trail, 18-4; 18. Austin Northwest, 21-4; 19. McKinney North, 18-6; 20. FW Trimble Tech, 13-9; 21. Amarillo, 17-11; 22. Humble, 22-5; 23. SA Jefferson, 18-6; 24. FW Wyatt, 16-7; 25. Mount Pleasant, 18-5.

Class 4A

1. Silsbee, 20-5; 2. Dallas Lincoln, 19-5; 3. Freeport Brazosport, 20-3 4. Abilene Wylie, 21-3; 5. CC West Oso, 20-4; 6. Canter, 23-4; 7. Decatur, 19-6; 8. Houston Yates, 21-0; 9. Angleton, 21-3; 10 Midlothian Heritage, 21-4; 11. Dallas Carter, 12-8; 12. Lamesa, 21-3; 13 WF Hirschi, 12-7; 14. Houston Yates, 15-7; 15. Dallas Pinkston, 13-8; 16. Paris, 18-4; 17. Lampasas, 18-2; 18. Sanger, 12-1; 19 Burkburnett, 19-4; 20. Wilcox-Hutchins, 11-9; 21. Levelland, 19-5. 22. Waxahachie Life, 02-07; 23. Brownfield, 111-4; 24. Lubbock Estacado, 14-9; 25. Wharton, 13-6.

Class 3A

1. Dallas Madison, 13-9; 2. Santa Rosa, 23-3; 3. Jarrell, 20-3; 4. Ponder, 21-4; 5. La Marque, 121-4; 6. Brock, 18-6; 7. Teague, 15-8; 8. Rasbert, 15-5; 9. Hempstead, 18-3; 10. SA Randolph, 19-4; 11. Littlefield, 17-6; 12. SA Cole, 18-7; 13. Canadian, 11-2; 14. Buna, 151-2; 15. Kountze, 171-0; 16. Childress, 15-2; 17. Dallas Triple A, 12-8; 18. Commerce, 22-2; 19. Wall, 15-6; 20. Kansas City, 22-2; 21 Nacogdoches Central Heights, 16-8; 22. Bowie, 15-9; 23. Rice, 12-3; 24. Jefferson, 17-7; 25. Mount Pleasant Chapel Hill, 21-4.

Class 2A

1. Muenster, 19-5; 2. Anthony, 17-4; 3. Mumford, 25-2; 4. Clarksville, 19-6; 5. Clarendon, 18-2; 6. Port Aransas, 22-3; 7. Electra, 19-3 8. Tenaha, 19-2; 9. Kirbyville, 16-5; 10. La Rue La Poynor, 15-8; 11. Stinnett West Texas, 20-1; 12. Neches, 23-1; 13. New Deal, 21-2; 14 Stratford, 15-3; 15. Grapeland, 21-5; 16. Albany, 17-4; 17. Chevino, 18-6; 18. Shelbyville, 17-5; 19. Snook, 20-4; 20. Petrolia, 19-5; 21 Daltondeville Big Sandy, 17-6; 22. Farwell, 18-3; 23. Evadale, 14-6; 24. Alto, 17-3; 25. SA Garvin, 11-4.

Class 1A

1. Lipan, 23-2; 2. Happy, 14-3; 3. Leggett, 24-2; 4. Nazareth, 14-9; 5. New Home, 22-2; 6. Calvert, 11-4; 7. Lingleville, 16-5; 8. Grabot, 17-7; 9. Borden County, 9-1. 10. Lanaville, 131-1; 11. Imperial Buena Vista, 17-4; 12. Jayton, 20-5; 13. Eula, 17-6; 14. Grady, 13-4; 15. Garden City, 9-4; 16. Dime Box, 14-7; 17. Weimar, 19-5; 18. McLean, 13-10; 19. Turkey Valley, 9-4. 20. Shamrock, 17-5; 21 Ropesville, 16-2; 22. Meadow, 8-5; 23. Milford, 14-2; 24. Bronte, 16-6; 25. Coolidge, 10-8

BOYS PRIVATE

TAPPS 6A/5PC

1. Dallas Greenhill, 22-6; 2. Tomball Concordia, 22-7. 3. Houston Kinkaid, 18-9; 4. Plano Prestonwood Christian, 15-8; 5. Dallas Bishop Lynch, 23-7; 6 SA Central Catholic, 23-8; 7. Houston St Thomas, 16-7; 8. Beaumont Kelly Catholic, 20-7; 9. FW Country Day, 18-5; 10. Episcopal, 13-10.

TAPPS 5A

1 SA Christian, 31-3; 2. Cedar Hill Trinity Christian, 22-9; 3. Tyler All-Saints, 18-6; 4. **Midland Christian, 24-7**; 5. SA St Mary's Hall, 16-6; 6. Houston Westbury Christian, 9-19; 7. Houston 2nd Baptist, 24-10; 8. FW Christian, 13-12; 9. Austin Regents, 13-10; 10. Austin St. Michael's Catholic 21-11

TAPPS 4A

1 Lubbock Trinity Christian, 26-6; 2. Waco Vanguard, 24-7; 3. The Woodlands Christian, 19-4; 4. Houston St Thomas Episcopal, 13-4; 5. Tyler Grace Prep, 10-9; 6. Colleyville Covenant Christian, 18-8; 7. Austin Texas for Deaf, 17-5; 8. Boerne Geneva, 15-8; 9. Lubbock Christian, 24-3; 10. FW Lake Country, 14-9

TAPPS 3A

1. Kerrville Our Lady of the Hills, 17-6; 2. Abilene Christian, 17-5; 3. Rockwall Heritage Christian, 13-9; 4. Bryan Brazos Christian, 15-4; 5. Dallas Vernon, 21-3; 6. SA Lutheran, 21-9; 7. Wilder Park Trinity Christian, 12-6; 8. McAllen South Texas Christian, 10-4; 9. Dallas The Covenant, 12-7; 10. Brownsville First Baptist, 18-8.

TAPPS 2A

1 Huntsville Alpha Omega, 27-2; 2. Austin The Waldorf, 20-3; 3. Sherman Texoma Christian, 21-1; 4. Baytown Christian, 17-6; 5. Lubbock All-Saints Episcopal, 20-6; 6. Bryan Allen, 19-10; 7. Dallas First Baptist, 11-4; 8 New Braunfels Christian, 15-14; 9. Conroe Covenant Christian, 12-8; 10. Plainview Christian, 13-10.

TAPPS 1A/OTHER

1 Conroe Lifestyle Christian, 23-2; 2. Granbury North Central Texas, 15-5; 3. Fredericksburg Heritage, 11-5; 4. Kingwood The Covenant, 23-7; 5. Edinburg Harvest Christian, 14-6; 6. DeSoto The Canterbury Episcopal, 9-11; 7. WF Notre Dame, 13-4; 8. Athens Christian, 14-7; 9. Palmhurst Faith Christian, 10-6; 10. Houston Southwest Christian, 12-7.

GIRLS PUBLIC

Class 6A

1. Duncanville, 27-2; 2. League City Clear Springs, 23-3; 3. Euless Trinity, 24-3; 4. Pflugerville, 25-7; 5. Cypress Ranch, 21-6; 6. Converse Judson, 20-4; 7. Spring Dekaney, 24-4; 8. Katy Seven Lakes, 27-3; 9. Cibolo Steele, 23-6; 10. San Antonio Johnson, 26-4; 11. Killeen Ellison, 23-5; 12. Cedar Hill, 22-7; 13. Round Rock Cedar Ridge, 20-8; 14. SA Wagner, 18-4; 15. Galena Park North Shore, 22-4; 16. Arlington Bowie, 23-3; 17. Fort Bend Travis, 22-4; 18. Fort Bend Hightower, 21-5; 19. Plano, 17-7; 20. Cedar Park Vista Ridge, 23-5; 21. Laredo Alexander, 29-1; 22. Klein, 16-3 23. Waco Midway, 24-5; 24. Keller, 23-5; 25. Mesquite Horn, 22-5

Class 5A

1. Amarillo, 28-1; 2. Mansfield Timberview, 26-2; 3. Tomball Memorial, 22-4; 4. Mansfield Summit, 22-7; 5. Canyon, 10-3; 6. Barbers Hill, 24-4; 7. Saginaw Boswell, 28-3; 8. Frisco Lone Star, 20-5; 9. Frisco Liberty, 22-6; 10. Kerrville Tivy, 26-4 11. Lewisville The Colony, 28-1; 12. Georgetown, 20-6; 13. Austin High, 25-5; 14. Colleyville Heritage, 21-6; 15. Prosper, 20-7; 16. College Station, 22-6; 17. EP Andress, 22-3; 18. Sulphur Springs, 22-3; 19. Mansfield Legacy, 18-9 20. CC Carroll, 23-6; 21. Dayton, 23-3; 22. Houston Madison, 18-7; 23. Plainview, 22-7; 24. Brownsville Veterans Memorial, 23-7; 25. Laredo Cigarroa, 24-7

Class 4A

1. Argyle, 25-2; 2. Kennedale, 27-3; 3. Liberty Hill, 26-2; 4. Godley, 26-4; 5. Tatum, 27-0; 6. Navasota, 29-3; 7. Levelland, 25-4 8. Madisonville, 21-3; 9. Devine, 21-4; 10. Stephenville, 20-4; 11. Houston Wheatley, 23-3; 12. Diamer City, 19-5; 13. Gilmer, 24-3; 14. Cleveland, 15-7; 15. Gatesville, 27-2; 16. Brownwood, 19-8; 17. Abilene Wylie, 17-8; 18. Fredericksburg, 23-5; 19. Boerne, 20-4; 20. Wharton, 22-6; 21. Bullard, 24-5; 22. Canton, 19-7. 23. Burkburnett, 18-3; 24. Melissa, 14-12; 25. Brownsboro, 20-7

Class 3A

1. Canadian, 21-3; 2. Little River Academy, 20-5; 3. Wall, 18-7; 4. Tuscola Jim Ned, 20-6; 5. Hitchcock, 26-3; 6. Mount Vernon, 23-5; 7 Whitewright, 24-2; 8. Pottsboro, 20-1; 9. Sunnyvale, 25-3; 10. Palacios, 25-1; 11. Bowie, 24-1; 12. Brock, 21-8; 13. Winnsboro, 18-10; 14 Mount Pleasant Chapel Hill, 23-5; 15. Franklin, 28-1; 16. San Diego, 25-3; 17. Marion, 21-6; 18. Woodville, 22-5; 19. Littlefield, 18-8; 20. Idalou, 21-6; 21. Odem, 22-5; 22. Jarrell, 18-9; 23. Teague, 16-4; 24 Goliad, 19-7; 25. New Waverly, 21-3.

Class 2A

1. Claude, 26-0; 2. Martins Mill, 25-2; 3. La Rue La Poynor, 22-4 4. Panhandle, 18-6; 5. Falls City, 21-4; 6. Bells, 22-4; 7. Windthorst, 20-3; 8. Woden, 26-1; 9 Tenaha, 23-4; 10. Hico, 25-4; 11 Weimar, 22-8; 12. San Saba, 24-3; 13. Evadale, 20-5; 14. Mason, 23-7; 15 Sundown, 21-4; 16. Abernathy, 20-5; 17. Grapeland, 25-5; 18. Era, 22-2; 19. Stratford, 18-8; 20. Centerville, 20-6; 21. Haskell, 22-5; 22. Shiner, 21-6; 23. Farwell, 19-4; 24. Snook, 16-4; 25. Gladewater Union Grove, 18-7.

Class 1A

1. Nazareth, 24-1; 2. Dodd City, 22-3; 3. Hermleigh, 22-0; 4 Huckabay, 22-2; 5. **Garden City, 19-4**; 6. Spur, 22-5; 7. McMullen County, 20-3; 8. Ropesville, 19-2; 9. Barksdale Nueces Canyon, 19-5; 10. Ira, 19-8; 11. May, 18-8; 12. Eula, 19-6; 13. Moulton, 20-5. 14. Lipan, 15-11; 15. Lasley, 17-7; 16. Klondike, 17-5; 17 O'Donnell 21-4. 18. Slocum, 17-7. 19. Sildad, 21-3; 20. Blum, 18-8; 21. White Deer, 16-8; 22. McLean, 21-4; 23. Lorenzo, 20-6; 24. Apple Springs, 16-4; 25. Richland Springs, 15-5.

GIRLS PRIVATE

TAPPS 6A/5PC

1. Houston Kinkaid, 24-3; 2. Plano Prestonwood, 19-7; 3. Dallas Bishop Lynch, 20-4; 4. SA Antonio, 26-4; 5. SA Incarnate Word, 20-5; 6. Dallas Parish Episcopal, 18-4; 7. Dallas Greenhill, 20-6; 8. Tomball Concordia, 23-14; 9. Houston St. Agnes, 25-8; 10. Houston Christian, 25-6

TAPPS 5A

1 Dallas Christian, 23-6; 2. Corpus Christi IWA, 26-3; 3. Houston Westbury Christian, 15-9; 4. **Midland Christian, 22-4**; 5. Austin Regents, 18-6; 6. Tyler Grace Community Christian, 20-4; 7. SA Christian, 15-6; 8. CC John Paul II, 21-9; 9. Grapevine Faith Christian, 19-8; 10. Austin St. Michaels, 18-9

TAPPS 4A

1. Marble Falls Faith, 25-4; 2. Lubbock Trinity Christian, 16-12; 3. Houston Lutheran North, 17-8; 4. FW Lake Country Christian, 17-14; 5. Arlington Parnegg, 13-6; 6. Austin Brentwood, 15-8; 7. Austin School for Deaf, 20-6; 8. McKinney Christian, 14-9; 9. League City Bay Area Christian, 18-6; 10. Flower Mound Coram Deo, 17-6

TAPPS 3A

1. Beaumont Legacy, 26-2; 2. **Midland Classical, 18-6**; 3. Temple Central Texas Christian, 21-7; 4. Tomball Rosehill, 17-11; 5. Mission Juan Diego, 13-7; 6. Denton Calvary, 13-10; 7. SA Keystone, 9-1; 8. Spring Frassati Catholic, 16-6; 9. Round Rock Christian, 12-11. 10 Houston Veritas, 5-4

TAPPS 2A

1. Muenster Sacred Heart, 23-3; 2. Bryan St. Joseph, 20-7; 3. Austin Waldorf, 17-6; 4. Red Oak Ovilla Christian, 16-3; 5. Sherman Texoma, 13-7; 6. Bryan St. Paul, 12-8; 7. Universal City First Baptist, 15-8; 8. Bryan Allen, 10-5; 9. Plainview Christian, 12-8; 10. Christian Academy of San Antonio.

TAPPS 1A/OTHER

1. Edinburg Harvest Christian, 17-1; 2. DeSoto Canterbury, 13-3. 3. WF Notre Dame, 15-8; 4. WF Christ Academy, 15-6; 5. EP Jesus Chapel, 10-2; 6. Houston Southwest Christian, 13-2; 7. SA Legacy, 9-8; 8. Waxahachie Prep, 8-4; 9. San Marcos Hill Country, 5-2; 10. Longview Trinity, 9-7.

MIDLAND HUMANE COALITION

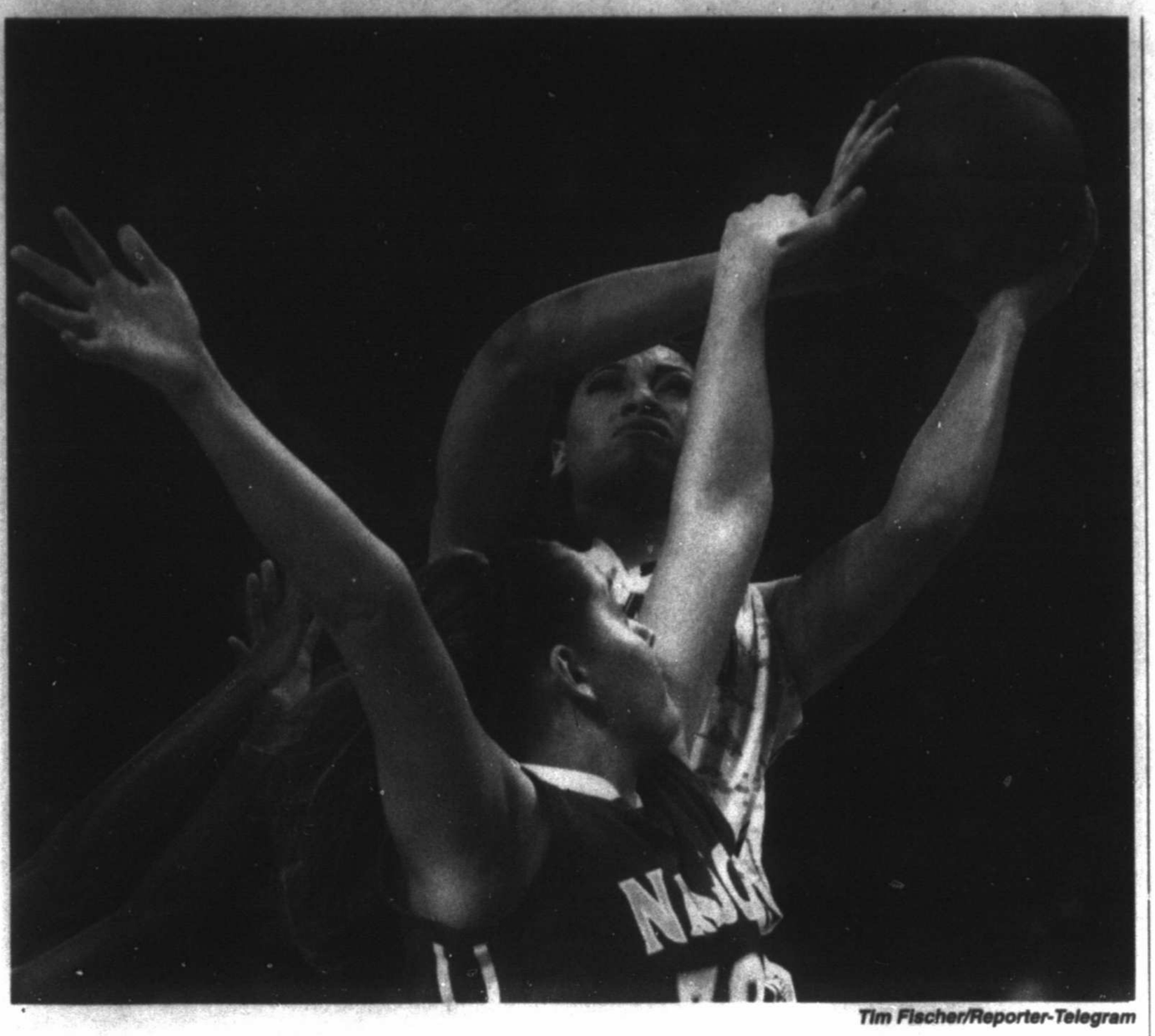
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Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram

New Mexico Junior College's Ekaterina Zhibareva gets called for the foul as Midland College's Janea Bunn puts up a shot Monday at Chaparral Center.

LADY CHAPS

From 1C

a chance to win the game."

NMJC (15-4, 4-1) jumped out to a 14-3 advantage, took a 40-28 lead at the break and then extended the lead to as much as 68-40 midway through the second half.

"His teams are always aggressive, we just have a little more team speed and it makes you look a little more aggressive," Sanders said. "This is one of my hardest places to win and it's a tribute to (Jones) and the program he's built here. For us to get any kind of win here, is big."

The performance by the Lady Chaps surprised Jones, considering that they were not only riding a two-game winning streak, but coming off a 20-point win at Frank Phillips College and playing well.

"I thought this was a good time for us to play this game," Jones said. "I thought we were gaining a little momentum, I thought we were playing harder, and we didn't accept the challenge."

NMJC had four players score in double figures, as Daiane Machado and Laurynn McGowen each had 15 points, while Ni'Asia McIntosh and Dezirae Hampton each chipped in with 14.

Lisa Kaempf had 14 to lead MC, while Kayla Bretherton added 13.

The Lady Chaps now must regroup to face another huge challenge against top-ranked Odessa College.

After Monday night, the Lady Chaps were left looking for answers but Jones said his team must continue to work to get better.

"We sure believe we can play with them, but we sure we didn't prove anything tonight," Jones said.

Follow Oscar on Twitter: @OLeRoy_MRT

Women's WJCAC standings

Team	Conference W	Conference L	Overall W	Overall L
Odessa College	5	0	19	0
New Mexico JC	4	1	15	4
South Plains	4	2	19	3
Midland College	3	3	12	6
Howard College	3	3	7	13
Frank Phillips	3	3	13	4
Western Texas	2	4	8	8
Clarendon College	0	6	11	11

Monday's Scores

New Mexico JC 76, Midland College 57; Odessa College 86, Howard College 53; South Plains College 70, Clarendon College 53; Western Texas College 88, Frank Phillips College 63

Thursday's Games

Odessa College at Midland College; Western Texas College at Clarendon College; New Mexico JC at Frank Phillips College; Howard College and South Plains College and open

NEW MEXICO JC 76, MIDLAND COLLEGE 57

NO. 6 NEW MEXICO JC 76, NO. 22 MIDLAND COLLEGE 57

New Mexico JC (15-4, 4-1): Alane Mayze 2-6 3-6 8; Ashley Perez 2-4 0-0 6; Ni'Asia McIntosh 5-7 3-4 14; Dezirae Hampton 5-11 0-0 14; Daiane Machado 7-15 1-2 15; Sentresa Gregory 0-0 0-0 0; Laurynn McGowen 4-6 6-12 15; Alexis Winter 1-4 0-0 2; Keonna Watson 0-0 2-2 2; Maddison Glass 0-0 0-0 0; Ekaterina Zhibareva 0-3 0-0 0; Natalia Gwarda 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 26-58 15-26 76

Midland College (12-6, 3-3): Janea Bunn 0-3 1-2 1; Taelor Hodge 2-4 0-0 5; Kayla Bretherton 2-6 7-10 13; Alexandrea Washington 2-7 0-0 5; Lisa Kaempf 4-8 4-6 14; Tichina Coleman 1-3 0-0 0; Tenesha Dixon 4-9 0-0 8; Alexis Washington 1-4 0-0 3; Carey Barnard 1-3 1-2 3; Matangrica Flavell 1-4 1-2 3. Totals 18-51 14-22 57

NMJC	25	15	22	14 — 76
Midland	14	14	12	17 — 57

3-point goals - NMJC 9-19 (Hampton 4-7, Perez 2-4, Mayze 1-4, McIntosh 1-1, McGowen 1-1, Winter 0-1, Machado 0-1); MC 7-24 (Bretherton 2-5, Kaempf 2-3, Hodge 1-3, Alexis Washington 1-4, Alexis Washington 1-6, Barnard 0-1, Flavell 0-2). Total fouls - NMJC 21; MC 17. Fouled out - None. Rebounds - NMJC 40 (McIntosh 9); MC 33 (Dixon 7). Assists - NMJC 7 (McGowen 3); MC 6 (Bretherton 2, Alexis Washington 2). Turnovers - NMJC 17; MC 24.

Next: Odessa College at Midland College, 5:45 p.m. Thursday

CHAPS

From 1C

I was really proud of the seven, eight guys who stepped up. But when you're 1 for 14 from three, 35 percent from the field and 48 percent from the free-throw line, you're not going to win, no matter how good your defense is, no matter how much you rebound."

NMJC (15-5, 3-3) shot 42.9 percent but hit 10 of 26 shots from beyond the arc. Shawn Olden hit four of those 3s en route to 17 points, Roosevelt Smart added 15 and Demontrez Hawes and Xabier Gomez each had 10.

The T-birds only took a 29-28 halftime lead after the Chaps closed the period on a 10-1 run.

But NMJC grabbed the momentum back with a strong start to the second half and took as much as a 52-41 lead on a jumper by Hawes.

However, MC managed to stay in the game thanks in part to Cardenas, who had 13 of his points in the second half.

"That dude just gives you everything he's got," said Dreiling of Cardenas. "He has led by example all year long. I couldn't be prouder of him. How can you not love his game tonight? He was the best player on the floor."

Cardenas admitted it took him a little bit to get going on the offensive end.

"As my shot heated up, my game got better and so did my confidence," he said. "My teammates also did a good job of passing me the ball, so I could have the ability to score."

Joseph added 10 points and was the only other Chap in double figures.

MC had to play the second half without one of its top players in sophomore forward Jachai Simmons. Dreiling said Simmons was favoring one of his knees a little bit and decided to sit him out as a precaution, especially after Simmons missed a few games early in the season with a knee injury.

Follow Oscar on Twitter: @OLeRoy_MRT

Men's WJCAC standings

Team	Conference W	Conference L	Overall W	Overall L
South Plains	7	0	19	0
Odessa College	5	1	16	3
Western Texas	4	2	12	7
New Mexico JC	3	3	15	5
Midland College	3	3	12	8
Howard College	2	4	13	7
New Mexico Military	2	4	7	13
Clarendon College	2	5	11	10
Frank Phillips	0	6	11	9

Monday's Scores

New Mexico JC 68, Midland College 58; Odessa College 84, Howard College 82; South Plains College 104, Clarendon College 90; Western Texas College 84, Frank Phillips College 51; New Mexico Military Institute is open

Thursday's Games

Odessa College at Midland College; New Mexico Military Institute at Howard College; Western Texas College at Clarendon College; New Mexico JC at Frank Phillips College; South Plains College is open

NEW MEXICO JC 68, MIDLAND COLLEGE 58

New Mexico JC (15-5, 3-3): Roosevelt Smart 4-9 6-6 15; Demontrez Hawes 4-10 0-0 10; Josiah Reis 0-3 0-0 0; Shawn Olden 5-12 3-5 17; Mario Mawein 1-3 4-4 7; Josiah Spencer 1-1 0-0 2; De'Vante Waldon 2-4 0-0 5; Nnamdi Okorn 2-4 ... 4; Xabier Gomez 3-3 3-4 10; Kene Chukwuka 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 27-49 16-19 68

Midland College (12-8, 3-3): Jachai Simmons 1-4 1-2 3; Devin Campbell 2-7 2-4 6; Jordan Jackson 2-11 0-0 4; Daven Joseph 4-7 2-6 10; Juan Cardenas 9-13 6-10 24; Sean Dodge 1-1 0-0 2; Ashawn Jones 1-5 0-0 2; Anthony McCoy 0-0 0-0 0; Roland Griffin 0-0 0-0 0; Grant Weatherford 1-4 2-5 4; Anthony Pratt ... 5 0-0 3. Totals 22-63 13-27 58

Halftime - NMJC 29, MC 28. 3-point goals - NMJC 10-26 (Olden 4-8, Hawes 2-5, Smart 1-3, Mawein 1-2, Waldon 1-2, Gomez 1-1); MC 11-44 (Pratt 1-2, Campbell 0-5, Jackson 0-2, Griffin 0-2). Total fouls - NMJC 25; MC 17. Fouled out - Okorn. Rebounds - NMJC 31 (Olden 7, Okorn 7); MC 38 (Cardenas 8). Assists - NMJC 2; MC 7 (Weatherford 3). Turnovers - NMJC 11; MC 9.

Next: Odessa College at Midland College, 7:45 p.m. Thursday

NBAROUNDUP

FROM WIRE REPORTS

SPURS 112
NETS 86

NEW YORK — With star forward Kawhi Leonard and three other regulars out, the Spurs' lineup was different.

The expectations from their coach never are.

Patty Mills scored 20 points, LaMarcus Aldridge had 16 and San Antonio rolled to a 112-86 victory over the Brooklyn Nets on Monday night.

Pau Gasol (broken bone, left hand) and Tony Parker (sore left foot) didn't even make the road trip, while Manu Ginobili was scheduled for a night off but couldn't have played anyway because of back spasms. Then Leonard, the Western Conference player of the week, was scratched.

Without them, the Spurs put seven players in double figures and turned the game into a blowout with a 39-point third quarter. They improved to 19-4 on the road.

"Everyone gets excited to be able to get the chance to get out there and play, but nothing changes," Mills said. "The game plan's still the same, what's expected of us is the same, so it's just that opportunity. But there is that excitement when we do it the right way, play the right way, share the ball and everyone does their little piece."

BUCKS 127
ROCKETS 114

MILWAUKEE — Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 31 points, Jabari Parker had 28 and the Milwaukee Bucks snapped a five-game losing streak with a 127-114 victory over the Houston Rockets on Monday night.

James Harden just missed a triple-double with 26 points, 12 assists and nine rebounds for Houston, which fell to 1-1 on its five-game road trip. Patrick Beverley added 18 points.

Antetokounmpo made 11 of 17 shots and scored nine points in the final 4:16. Houston got no closer than six points in the final three minutes.

Parker was back in the starting lineup one game after coming off the bench while being disciplined for talking to the media about a players-only team meeting Friday night. He scored 20 of Milwaukee's 68 points before halftime, the most the Rockets have allowed in the first half this season.

Jason Terry's 17-foot jumper sparked an 11-0 run that gave Milwaukee the lead for good, 101-99. The Bucks extended the margin to 110-99 when Tony Snell hit a 3-pointer with 6:48 left. Terry had two steals during the spurt and Houston committed four turnovers.

PELICANS 124
CAVALIERS 122

NEW ORLEANS — Terrence Jones filled in brilliantly for injured All-Star Anthony Davis, scoring a season-high 36 points, grabbing 11 rebounds and blocking LeBron James' dunk attempt in the fourth quarter, and the New Orleans Pelicans beat the Cleveland Cavaliers 124-122 on Monday night.

Jrue Holiday added 33 points and 10 assists for the Pelicans, and Langston Galloway capped a 12-point night with a clean steal on James' drive in the final minute, preventing the Cavs from erasing a deficit they had trimmed from 22 late in the first half to three with 1:32 left in the game.

Kyrie Irving scoring 35 of his 49 points in the second half, but the Cleveland fell to its fifth loss in seven games. James had 26 points, 12 assists and 10 rebounds.

Two of Cleveland's recent losses came against Western Conference leaders Golden State and San Antonio, but two others have come against teams currently outside the playoff picture in the West: New Orleans and Portland.

WIZARDS 109
HORNETS 99

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — John Wall firmly believes the Washington Wizards are a good team with plenty of playoff potential.

The key, he said, "is we just got to believe it every time we step on the court."

Wall had 24 points and seven assists, and the Wizards looked plenty confident as they continued their run up the Eastern Conference standings with a 109-99 win against the Charlotte Hornets on Monday night.

Markieff Morris added 23 points and eight rebounds as Washington won for the fifth time in six games.

"It was a big game for us," Wall said. "We are playing defense and moving the ball. We're improving. We're improving a lot of ways."

Otto Porter Jr. was active all night with 14 points and 13 rebounds for his seventh double-double of the season. Bradley Beal made four 3-pointers on his way to 18 points, helping the Wizards shoot 54 percent from the field while the Hornets struggled to stop the pick and roll.

Washington also held Charlotte to 39 percent shooting.

HEAT 105
WARRIORS 102

MIAMI — Dion Waiters' 3-pointer with 0.6 seconds left capped his 33-point effort, and the Miami Heat beat Golden State 105-102 on Monday night to end the Warriors' seven-game winning streak.

The Heat wasted a 10-point lead in the final 4 minutes, and Kevin Durant tied the game on a dunk with 11.7 seconds left. With no timeouts, Waiters walked the ball up the court and drilled what became the game-winner over Klay Thompson.

Stephen Curry missed a 3-pointer as time expired for the Warriors.

Goran Dragic scored 19 points for Miami (15-30), which finished a 4-0 homestand. Luke Babbitt added 11, and Hassan Whiteside had 10 points and 15 rebounds.

CLIPPERS 115
HAWKS 105

ATLANTA — Austin Rivers scored 27 points and Jamal Crawford broke out of a shooting slump with 19, helping the Los Angeles Clippers beat the Atlanta Hawks 115-105 on Monday night.

Crawford had eight points in the fourth quarter, including a driving basket after Atlanta cut the Clippers' lead from 24 to five points.

Kent Bazemore led the Hawks with 25 points. Dennis Schroder had 21, and Dwight Howard added 16 points and 12 rebounds.

Crawford had made only 7 of 41 shots in his last four games, and his shooting woes were the subject of a pregame question to coach Doc Rivers just as the guard walked by. Rivers shifted the question to Crawford, who had a quick answer.

"Let's change that narrative tonight," Crawford said.

Crawford followed through with the plan, making 9 of 20 shots.

Austin Rivers' 3-pointer with 54 seconds remaining helped seal the win.

NBA GLANCE

Standings

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	28	15	.651	—
Boston	26	17	.605	1½
New York	20	26	.435	9
Philadelphia	15	27	.357	12
Brooklyn	9	35	.205	19

Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	26	19	.578	—
Washington	24	20	.545	1½
Charlotte	23	22	.511	3
Orlando	18	28	.391	8½
Miami	15	30	.333	11

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	30	13	.698	—
Indiana	22	22	.500	8½
Chicago	22	23	.489	9
Milwaukee	21	23	.477	9½
Detroit	21	25	.457	10½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	35	9	.795	—
Houston	34	14	.708	3
Memphis	26	20	.565	10
New Orleans	18	27	.400	17½
Dallas	15	29	.341	20

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Utah	29	16	.644	—
Oklahoma City	25	19	.568	3½
Denver	18	25	.419	10½
Portland	19	27	.413	10½
Minnesota	16	28	.364	12½

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Golden State	38	7	.844	—
L.A. Clippers	30	16	.652	8½
Sacramento	17	27	.386	20½
Phoenix	15	29	.341	22½
L.A. Lakers	16	32	.333	23½

Scores and schedule

Monday's Scores

Washington 109, Charlotte 99
L.A. Clippers 115, Atlanta 105
Miami 105, Golden State 102
Sacramento 109, Detroit 104
San Antonio 112, Brooklyn 86
Milwaukee 127, Houston 114
New Orleans 124, Cleveland 122
New York 109, Indiana 103
Oklahoma City at Utah, late

Today's Games

Boston at Washington, 6 p.m.
Chicago at Orlando, 6 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Philadelphia, 6 p.m.
San Antonio at Toronto, 6 p.m.
Minnesota at Phoenix, 8 p.m.
Utah at Denver, 8 p.m.

TEXASCOLLEGEROUNDUP

FROM WIRE REPORTS

Men

TEXAS 84
OKLAHOMA 83

AUSTIN — Andrew Jones made a long 3-point basket with 1.8 seconds remaining, and Texas pulled off a miraculous 84-83 win over Oklahoma Monday night to snap a five-game losing streak.

The Sooners (8-11, 2-6 Big 12) led by five points after a 7-0 push, but Eric Davis Jr. made a 3-pointer for Texas (8-12, 2-6) with 11.5 seconds left. Oklahoma's Kameron McGusty missed two free throws before Jones hit the winner.

Shaq Cleare led Texas with a career-best 23 points. Davis scored 18, and Jones added 16.

Freshman Kristian Doolittle led Oklahoma with a career-best 29 points. McGusty, also a freshman, scored a career-high 21.

OKLAHOMA STATE 89
TCU 76

STILLWATER, Okla. — Jawun Evans scored 27 points, dished out eight assists and Oklahoma State never trailed in an 89-76 victory over TCU on Monday night.

Jeffrey Carroll added 19 points and 10 rebounds for the Cowboys (12-8, 2-6 Big 12), who won their second straight contest after dropping six in a row.

"It feels great, I just want to keep the momentum going," said Evans, who committed just one foul. "I think defense is what did it for us. We talked about some stuff, changed some things, it's been great for us."

Kenrich Williams scored 20 points and had 12 rebounds, while Vladimir Brodziansky also scored 20 points for TCU (14-6, 3-5), which lost its third straight.

"They just played harder than us," Brodziansky said. "We took too many jump shots and the ball was a little bit sticking to our hands, a little bit selfish. They made shots and we missed shots. That's how it goes."

COLLEGE BASKETBALL POLLS

Men

Associated Press

The top 25 teams in The Associated Press' college basketball poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Jan. 22, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote and previous ranking:

	Record	Pts	Prv
1. Villanova (35)	19-1	1591	1
2. Kansas (25)	18-1	1572	2
3. Gonzaga (2)	19-0	1471	4
4. Kentucky	17-2	1414	5
5. Baylor	18-1	1379	6
6. Florida St.	18-2	1215	10
7. Arizona	18-2	1180	14
8. UCLA	19-2	1177	3
9. North Carolina	19-3	1171	9
10. Oregon	18-2	1035	11
11. Butler	17-3	914	13
12. Virginia	15-3	803	16
13. Louisville	16-4	799	12
14. Notre Dame	17-3	767	15
15. Wisconsin	16-3	749	17
16. Creighton	18-2	731	7
17. Duke	15-4	628	18
18. West Virginia	15-4	569	7
19. Cincinnati	17-2	479	20
20. Purdue	16-4	412	21
21. Saint Mary's (Cal)	17-2	290	23
22. Maryland	17-2	281	25
23. South Carolina	15-4	171	24
24. Xavier	14-5	146	22
25. Florida	14-5	47	19

Others receiving votes: Kansas St 41, SMU 32, Northwestern 28, UNC Wilmington 14, Iowa St. 12, Virginia Tech 7, Southern Cal 6, Dayton 6, Middle Tennessee 1, Illinois St. 1, Akron 1, Utah 1.

USA Today

The top 25 teams in the USA Today men's college basketball poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Jan. 22, points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote and previous ranking:

	Record	Pts	Prv
1. Kansas (18)	18-1	786	1
2. Villanova (11)	19-1	779	2
3. Gonzaga (3)	19-0	734	4
4. Kentucky	17-2	696	5
5. Baylor	18-1	686	6
6. North Carolina	19-3	577	9
7. UCLA	19-2	552	3
8. Florida State	18-2	550	12
9. Arizona	18-2	549	13
10. Oregon	18-2	513	10
11. Butler	17-3	410	14
12. Notre Dame	17-3	407	15
13. Virginia	15-3	405	16
14. Louisville	16-4	374	11
15. Wisconsin	16-3	366	17
16. Creighton	18-2	358	7
17. Duke	15-4	298	18
18. West Virginia	15-4	290	8
19. Cincinnati	17-2	264	20
20. Purdue	16-4	187	22
21. Saint Mary's	17-2	143	23
22. Xavier	14-5	138	19
23. Maryland	17-2	108	25
24. South Carolina	15-4	100	24
25. Florida	14-5	37	21

Others receiving votes: UNC-Wilmington 21, Northwestern 21, Kansas State 17, Indiana 16, Southern Cal 16, SMU 16, Iowa State 4, Middle Tennessee 4, New Mexico State 4, Miami 2, Nevada 1.

Women

Associated Press

The top 25 teams in The Associated Press' women's college basketball poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Jan. 22, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote and previous ranking:

	Record	Pts	Prv
1. UConn (33)	19-0	825	1
2. Baylor	19-1	787	2
3. Maryland	19-1	743	3
4. Mississippi St	20-0	734	4
5. South Carolina	18-1	702	5
6. Florida St.	19-2	657	7
7. Washington	19-2	616	8
8. Notre Dame	18-3	576	6
9. Louisville	18-4	545	9
10. Stanford	17-3	515	10
11. Oregon St.	18-2	506	11
12. Texas	14-4	480	12
13. UCLA	15-4	434	13
14. Duke	17-3	405	15
15. Ohio St.	17-5	384	16
16. Arizona St.	14-5	271	18
17. Miami	14-5	254	14
18. NC State	15-5	247	21
19. Virginia Tech	16-3	221	17
20. Oklahoma	15-5	202	20
21. DePaul	16-5	159	19
22. West Virginia	15-5	104	24
23. South Florida	16-3	102	23
24. Green Bay	17-2	90	
25. Kansas St.	15-5	54	22

Others receiving votes: Syracuse 44, Kentucky 15, Texas A&M 13, Temple 13, Tennessee 11, Michigan 10, Marquette 8, Northwestern 7, California 5, Drake 3, Wyoming 2, Oregon 2, Harvard 1.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL SCORES

Women

SOUTHWEST

Ark.-Pine Bluff 64, Prairie View 47
Missouri 60, Arkansas 46

SOUTH

Alabama St. 72, Southern U. 68
Alcorn St. 73, Alabama A&M 58
Florida A&M 59, Ms.-Eastern Shore 49
Florida Gulf Coast 93, SC-Upstate 43
Howard 73, NC Central 50
Jacksonville 84, Lipscomb 80
Kennesaw St. 67, North Florida 61
MVSU 75, Texas Southern 74
Miles 67, Lane 62
Norfolk St. 49, Coppin St. 45
SC State 90, Morgan St. 46
Savannah St. 64, Delaware St. 57
South Carolina 64, Mississippi St. 61
Spring Hill 82, Auburn-Montgomery 53
Stetson 77, NJIT 43

MIDWEST

Baker 79, Grand View 67
Indiana 72, Penn St. 65

EAST

LIU Brooklyn 68, Wagner 64
Robert Morris 53, CCSU 46
Sacred Heart 49, Mount St. Mary's 45
St. Francis (Pa.) 79, Bryant 67
St. Francis Brooklyn 66, Fairleigh Dickinson 59

Men

SOUTHWEST

Arkansas St. 74, South Alabama 62
Morgan St. 77, SC State 75
Oklahoma St. 89, TCU 76
Texas St. 63, Louisiana-Monroe 57
Troy 78, ULM 69

SOUTH

Georgia Southern 91, Coastal Carolina 80
Georgia St. 83, Appalachian St. 72
NC Central 74, Howard 39
NC State 84, Duke 82
Norfolk St. 74, Coppin St. 64
Wichita at Pfeiffer, ccd.

FAR WEST

Gonzaga 83, Portland 64

MIDWEST

Green Bay 83, Cleveland St. 73

EAST

Baruch 87, Penn St.-Abington 79
Holy Cross 63, American U. 55
Iona 84, Quinnipiac 74
Niagara 91, Canisius 84
Old Westbury 80, Medgar Evers 57
St. Peter's 56, Rider 51

NASCAR overhauls race and playoff format

By Jenna Fryer
Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — NASCAR is dramatically changing its format for the upcoming season, cutting every race into stages that reward points in hopes of making every lap matter.

The overhaul announced Monday assigns three stages to every race. The top 10 drivers at the end of Stage 1 and Stage 2 will be awarded points on a 10-through-1 scale and there will be a break in the racing after each segment. The third portion of the race will be for the overall victory, and although traditional point scoring will be applied for that stage, the win will be worth 40 points. The rest of the field will be scored on a 35 to 2 scale, and positions 36th to 40 will only receive 1 point.

All bonus points accumulated through the 26-race regular season can be used in the 10-race playoff, which will no longer be called "The Chase."

"There are no off weeks, every race matters, not only that, every lap of every race matters," said Denny Hamlin, one of the many drivers who participated on the panel that created the new format.

NASCAR spent nearly seven months working with a wide range of industry stakeholders to come up with the changes. Heavily involved were the television networks, retired drivers Jeff Gordon and Jeff Burton, current drivers from the driver council, and team and track executives. Monster Energy, which signed last month as the title sponsor for NASCAR's top series, was only informed of the shakeup in the last few weeks.

"If we created motorsports today, this is exactly how we would have done it," said 2012 champion Brad Keselowski.

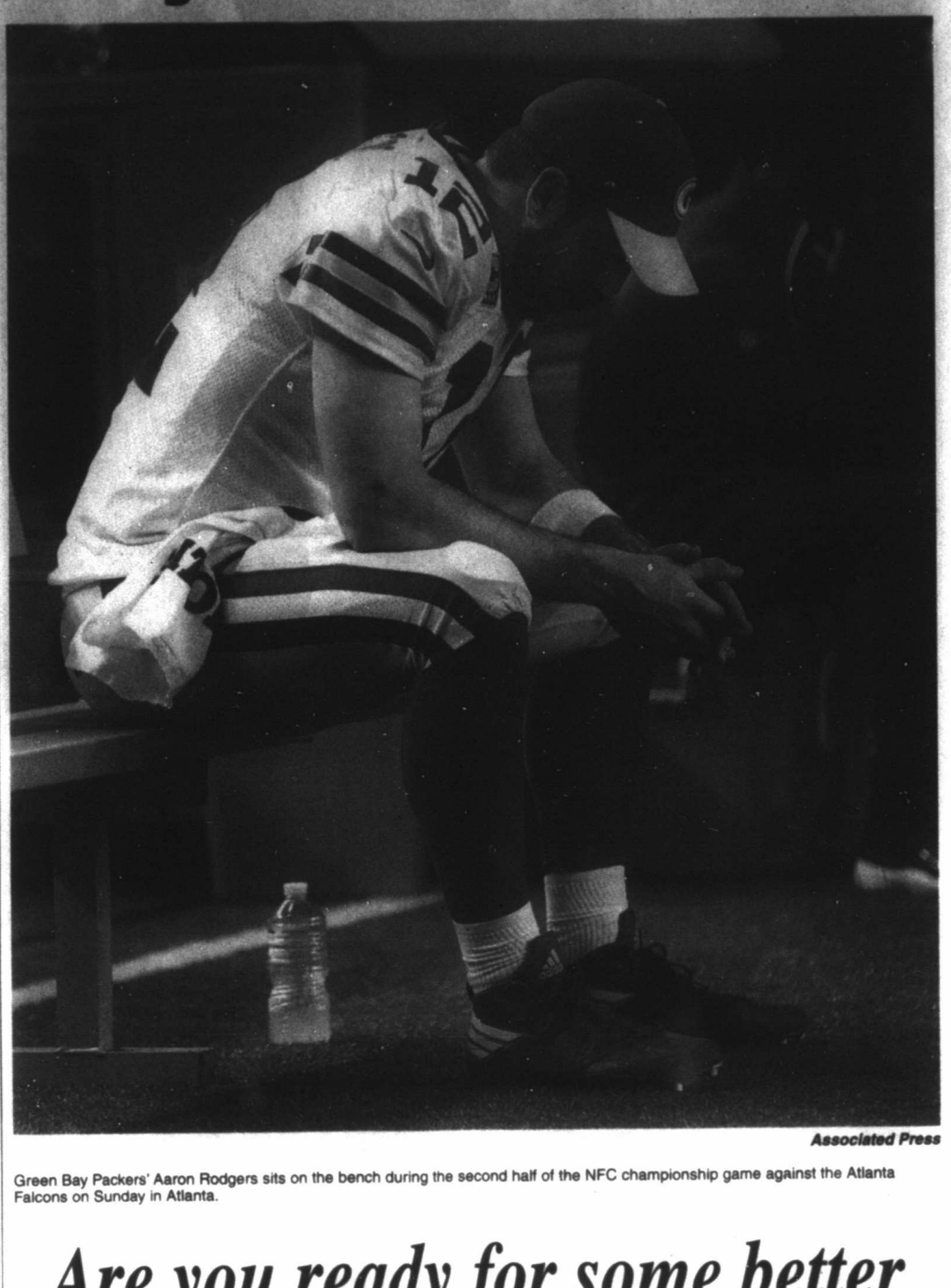
NASCAR is energized by the changes, particularly the stages that will allow for a commercial break that doesn't occur during green-flag racing. Segment winners will be interviewed during the breaks, and NASCAR likes that it creates a pause that gives fans a chance to reset.

Race distances will not change under the format. Other changes:

■ The winner of the first two stages of each race will receive one playoff point, and the race winner will receive five playoff points. Each playoff point will be added to the driver total at the start of the playoffs.

■ All playoff points will carry through to the end of the third round of the playoffs. The four title contenders will race straight-up in the season finale for the title.

Are you not entertained?



Associated Press

Green Bay Packers' Aaron Rodgers sits on the bench during the second half of the NFC championship game against the Atlanta Falcons on Sunday in Atlanta.

Tiger returns to Riviera where PGA Tour career began

By Beth Harris
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Tiger Woods is roaring into the new year, preparing to play four times in five weeks in his return to the PGA Tour after a 15-month absence. One of his stops includes a return to his hometown tournament in Los Angeles, where he made his first start on the pro tour as a skinny 16-year-old.



Woods

Woods has stayed away from Riviera, which hosts the newly renamed Genesis Open next month, since 2006. He loves the venerable course nestled in a posh residential neighborhood overlooking the Pacific Ocean, but has never won there.

And that led him to avoid it.

"I've just never played it well," he said Monday as occasional rain pelted the already soggy course. "That's the only reason."

Woods debuted at Riviera in 1992 on a sponsor's exemption. The teenager from nearby Orange County shot 72-75 to miss the cut.

"I felt fine on that first tee but as I took the club back, I never felt nerves like that," he recalled. "I was skinny. I looked like a 1-iron. I didn't weigh a lot. I had a lot of speed."

Woods birdied his first hole and thought to himself: "That's how you want to start off your PGA Tour career."

On his second hole, his shot smacked a fence and soon the teenager was 17 shots behind Davis Love III, who lost to Fred Couples in a playoff. Woods got caught in the rain without an umbrella and barely made the cut, and then withdrew because of the flu.

"I have so far to go," Woods recalled thinking. "I'm not that good."

But by 1997, he was Masters champion and well on his way to winning 79 PGA Tour career titles.

"Twenty-five years later, here we are," said Woods, whose best finish at Riviera was a tie for second in 1999.

From the end of 1999 to early 2000, Woods either won or was runner-up in 10 of 11 PGA events.

The exception was Riviera, where he tied for 18th.

Although Riviera is considered his hometown tournament, Woods is partial to Torrey Pines near San Diego, where he'll start his season on Thursday in the Farmers Insurance Open. He's won that tournament seven times along with a U.S. Open playing on a bad knee at the La Jolla course.

Woods will be testing his surgically repaired back starting at Torrey Pines. Next week, he'll jet to Dubai for an event before returning to Los Angeles for the Feb. 13-19 Genesis Open and then playing the Honda Classic in Florida. A lot of travel in a short time for the 41-year-old.

"If my back feels good, I know I can prepare enough and I know I can play," he said. "I need to have my health at a state where I can prepare. When I feel that way, I know I can shoot scores and win golf tournaments."

Plagued by injuries after his first back surgery in 2014, Woods had two more surgeries in the fall of 2015 and didn't play again until his Hero World Challenge in the Bahamas last month. He finished 15th in the 17-man field.

"I just need to get out there and do it," Woods said. "I feel like I'm strong enough, I can handle the workload. Feeling good about it and doing it are two different things."

Three weeks into the new year, Woods already has the Masters on his mind.

"I would love to play and I would love to win," he said. "I'm hoping I can get everything right, so yes, I'm looking forward to it."

Are you ready for some better football? Hopefully in Houston

By Barry Wilner
Associated Press

■ COMMENTARY

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — There's this football game planned for Feb. 5 in Houston. Let's hope it turns out much better than most of the postseason matchups the NFL has provided this year.

To say Sunday's championship games were duds is being kind. Blame the two losing teams, the Packers and Steelers, who were so helpless that they looked like they should have been done playing last month. All credit to the Patriots and Falcons, of course, who could give fans an all-time great shootout in two weeks.

But don't count on it considering how eight of the 10 playoff contests were, well, no contest.

Wild-card weekend was everything except wild. Routs galore. Inept performances by the undermanned Raiders and Dolphins, inconsistent Giants, and they-don't-belong-there Lions.

It didn't improve any with the mismatches on the first day of the divisional round: Houston had no business being on the same field as New England, and only the Patriots' sloppiness kept that game relatively close for a while. Atlanta passed Seattle dizzy and cruised.

The respite from such lopsided and at times barely watchable matches came the next day with a classic Packers-Cowboys game. It was worth waiting for from beginning to end — the kind of product that entrances everyone — and was followed by a tight Steelers-Chiefs game that seemed to bode well for the conference finals.

Then, deflation.

Sure, it was sweet for the folks in Georgia and New England, and they deserve to celebrate. The Patriots (16-2) are seeking even more history, including Tom Brady going for a record fifth Super Bowl crown by a quarterback. The Falcons (13-5) are an exciting offensive machine with an improving defense and a coach likely to entertain in Dan Quinn.

Oddsmakers expect a close one, too, making the Patriots merely a 3-point favorite.

"It's an honor to get to go and play in this game," Patriots receiver Julian Edelman said Sunday night. "This is what you fight for. This is what you train for. This is what you get hurt for. This is what you get yelled at for, and prepare for, and go through the ebbs and flows of a season."

Unfortunately, the NFL this month has seen far too many ebbs. The conference championships punctuated that, which was surprising because the Steelers and, in particular, the Packers had performed so well in their previous two outings.

Maybe that was a big part of the letdown Sunday. Green Bay and Pittsburgh made so many mistakes almost from the outset that they never gave themselves a chance to reach Houston. Perhaps they simply ran out of steam, while their opponents had a wild-card bye that kept them fresher.

Seemingly much fresher.

"If this has taught us anything, it's how important home-field advantage is," Aaron Rodgers said. "Being able to sleep in your own bed and practice and not have to travel and have the fan support, it makes a big difference. We've played in three of these now and all on the road. It's tough to win on the road."

For the Steelers, it's nearly impossible to win in Foxborough, where they are 1-5 since 2002; Brady was injured for the one Pittsburgh victory in 2008.

They might not have won against Boston College with the kind of showing they made this time.

"A lot of guys were feeling good about this game, the game plan and everything else," right tackle Marcus Gilbert said. "Then the whole climate changed, we weren't moving the ball, we weren't converting third downs. Then they scored and we were behind, we tried to play catch-up, and that's when bad things happen. You aren't going to win football games like that.

"There is no next game, so I can't say we need to work on it. It's a disappointing way to end the season."

Just as, for the most part, it's been a disappointing postseason. Perhaps what the Falcons and Patriots bring to Houston will make folks forget that.

SUPER BOWL

From 1C

went through a lengthy court battle in an unsuccessful bid to have his ban overturned for what became known as "Deflategate." NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell suspended Brady because the league said it determined the Patriots intentionally underinflated footballs used in an AFC championship game victory two years ago.

During Sunday's game in Foxborough, Massachusetts, spectators mocked Goodell by chanting "Where is Roger?" — he chose to attend the game in Atlanta instead.

And as well as Brady played — 32 for 42 for 384 yards, those three scores and zero interceptions — it was the way New England's defense played that stood out.

Right from the get-go, too: On Pittsburgh's first two drives, nine plays yielded a total of 26 yards. Then there was the stand late in the second quarter, when the Steelers had first-and-goal at the 1-foot line and wound up settling for a field goal. And, by game's end, the Patriots had forced two turnovers.

New England ranked No. 1 in the NFL in points allowed per game at 15.6, and it gave up only 326.4 yards per game, eighth-best.

MVP favorite Ryan, meanwhile, directed a unit orchestrated by offensive coordinator Kyle Shanahan — expected to be hired after the season as San Francisco's new head coach, he's the son of two-time Super Bowl champion coach Mike Shanahan — that topped the league in scoring (33.8) and ranked second in yards (415.8).

Brady, a three-time Super Bowl MVP and two-time league MVP, and the Patriots also own a pretty effective offense, even after losing star tight end Rob Gronkowski to an injury. New England ranked fourth in yards (386.2) and third in points (27.6).

Another thing these teams have in common is that neither hurts itself with turnovers: They tied for the fewest in the regular season, with 11.

That could be part of why bookies are expecting a high-scoring game, with most setting the over-under at 58 points.

NFL playoff glance

Wild-card Playoffs
Saturday, Jan. 7
Houston 27, Oakland 14
Seattle 26, Detroit 6
Sunday, Jan. 8
Pittsburgh 30, Miami 12
Green Bay 38, N.Y. Giants 13
Divisional Playoffs
Saturday, Jan. 14
Atlanta 36, Seattle 20
New England 34, Houston 16
Sunday, Jan. 15
Green Bay 34, Dallas 31
Pittsburgh 18, Kansas City 16

Conference Championships
Sunday
NFC
Atlanta 44, Green Bay 21
AFC
New England 36, Pittsburgh 17
Pro Bowl
Sunday, Jan. 29
At Orlando, Fla.
AFC vs. NFC, 7 p.m. (ESPN)
Super Bowl
Sunday, Feb. 5
At Houston
Atlanta vs. New England, 6:30 p.m. (FOX)

Rules of engagement: Williams reaches QFs, then speaks

By John Pye
Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia — For three rounds and more than a week, Serena Williams wanted to keep all the focus on her primary objective in Australia.

She hasn't worn an engagement ring at the Australian Open, and hasn't really wanted to elaborate much on the marriage proposal from Alexis Ohanian — which she made public late last month by posting a poem on news website Reddit.

The six-time Australian Open champion is in Melbourne aiming for an Open-era record 23rd Grand Slam title. Ohanian, co-founder of Reddit, has been at her matches.

After her toughest match at the tournament this year, a 7-5, 6-4 win over No. 16-seeded Barbora Strycova on Monday, she was relaxed enough to reflect on her engagement. She'd just reached the Australian Open quarterfinals for the 11th time, and said she had nothing to lose after struggling with her misfiring serve — she was broken four times, including her first two service games — and making 46 unforced errors.

The 35-year-old Williams was asked, again, about her engagement in a post-match news conference — this time by an Italian journalist who wanted to clarify the reference to Rome in her poem.

"What did I say? I said I was whisked away to Rome?" she said, explaining how Ohanian took her back to where they first met to propose.

Were they introduced, or was it happenstance?

"Literally by chance. It was just — I was sitting down, and he sat next to me," Williams said. "Yeah, that doesn't happen anymore, right?

"I live in a movie and in a fairytale in my mind, so I guess eventually it was bound to happen."

Still, she's not planning the wedding just yet. As she said to all previous questions about the engagement, she's here to win another title. With top-seeded Angelique Kerber already out, she also has the chance to regain the No. 1 ranking.

Next up, she'll face 2016 semifinalist Johanna Konta, who beat Ekaterina Makarova 6-1, 6-4 to make it fourth-round victories over the Russian in back-to-back years.

Mirjana Lucic-Baroni was an emerging talent when Serena and Venus Williams were first making an impact, reaching the semifinals at Wimbledon in 1999 when she was 17. After a long, difficult time off the tour, she has returned to the quarterfinals of a major for the first time since.

Lucic-Baroni beat American qualifier Jennifer Brady 6-4, 6-2 and will next play U.S. Open finalist Karolina Pliskova, who had a 6-3, 6-3 win over Daria Gavrilova.

Whatever comes of it, the 34-year-old Lucic-Baroni said she'd make the most of the moment.



Associated Press

Serena Williams celebrates after winning the first set against Barbora Strycova during their fourth round match at the Australian Open tennis championships in Melbourne, Australia, on Monday.

"I felt kind of a little bit of unfinished business," she said. "I still wanted to play on a stage like this ... Come out, play, have these wins, be in a quarterfinal of a Slam."

Rafael Nadal is coming back from two months off to rest his injured left wrist, and was delighted to reach the quarterfinals of a Grand Slam for the 30th time with his 6-3, 6-3, 4-6, 6-4 win over Gael Monfils. It was Nadal's first win over a top-10 player at a Grand Slam since his French Open victory in 2014 — the last of his 14 major titles.

"Being in the quarterfinals of a Grand Slam after couple of years not being there is very special for me," said Nadal, who last progressed this far at the 2015 French Open.

Nadal went up a break early in the first two sets, had his chances in the third before Monfils rallied, and then traded breaks in the fourth before breaking the acrobatic Frenchman in the last game to win. Overall, he converted six of 17 break-point chances.

He next plays third-ranked Milos Raonic, the Wimbledon finalist and highest-ranked man still in the tournament after upset losses for top-ranked Andy Murray and defending champion Novak Djokovic.

No. 15 Grigor Dimitrov closed with an ace to hold off wild-card entry Denis Istomin, who upset Djokovic in the third round, 2-6, 7-6 (2), 6-2, 6-1. The Bulgarian will next play No. 11 David Goffin.

Raonic had a 7-6 (6), 3-6, 6-4, 6-1 win over No. 13 Roberto Bautista Agut, hitting 33 aces and 75 winners. But he also had nine double-faults and 55 unforced errors, and didn't really get on a roll until after spiking his racket into the court in frustration in the third set.

The Canadian is conscious he is the highest-ranked player still in the draw, but also of what lies ahead.

"It sort of crosses your mind," Raonic said. "But it's very insignificant because there's a lot for me to even get past that point where it would have been to play potentially against those guys. I'm pretty intent on staying in that moment."

That's something Williams is counting on, too.

"I feel like it was really good for me to win on probably not my best day," Williams said of her wayward serve. "Sometimes you rely on one shot and if it goes off, and then, like, what happens now?

"It was really good for me to almost lose that so I know my other game is going pretty good, too."

Monday
At Melbourne Park
Melbourne, Australia
Purse: $37.4 million (Grand Slam)
Surface: Hard-Outdoor

Singles

Men

Fourth Round

David Goffin (11), Belgium, def. Dominic Thiem (8), Austria, 5-7, 7-6 (4), 6-2, 6-2.
Grigor Dimitrov (15), Bulgaria, def. Denis Istomin, Uzbekistan, 2-6, 7-6 (2), 6-2, 6-1.
Milos Raonic (3), Canada, def. Roberto Bautista Agut (13), Spain, 7-6 (6), 3-6, 6-4, 6-1.
Rafael Nadal (9), Spain, def. Gael Monfils (6), France, 6-3, 6-3, 4-6, 6-4.

Women

Fourth Round

Serena Williams (2), United States, def. Barbora Strycova (16), Czech Republic, 7-5, 6-4.
Ekaterina Makarova (30), Russia, vs. Johanna Konta (9), Britain, 5-1, 6-4.
Mirjana Lucic-Baroni, Croatia, def. Jennifer Brady, United States, 6-4, 6-2.
Karolina Pliskova (5), Czech Republic, def. Daria Gavrilova (22), Australia, 6-3, 6-3.

Doubles

Men

Third Round

Bob and Mike Bryan (3), United States, def. Brian Baker, United States, and Nikola Mektic, Croatia, 6-3, 7-6 (11).
Ivan Dodig, Croatia, and Marcel Granollers (9), Spain, def. Lukasz Kubot, Poland, and Marcelo Melo (7), Brazil, 7-6 (5), 7-6 (5).
Henri Kontinen, Finland, and John Peers (4), Australia, def. Juan Sebastian Cabal and Robert Farah (14), Colombia, 6-7 (3), 7-6 (5), 7-6 (1).
Sam Groth and Chris Guccione, Australia, def. Marcus Daniell, New Zealand, and Marcelo Demoliner, Brazil, 7-6 (9), 6-3.

Women

Third Round

Ashleigh Barty and Casey Dellacqua, Australia, def. Anna-Lena Grönefeld, Germany, and Kveta Peschke, Czech Republic, 6-4, 6-4.
Bethanie Mattek-Sands, United States, and Lucie Safarova (2), Czech Republic, def. Timea Babos, Hungary, and Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova, Russia, 6-3, 6-4.
Caroline Garcia and Kristina Mladenovic (1), France, def. Katarina Srebotnik, Slovenia, and Zheng Saisai (13), China, 6-1, 6-4.
Raquel Atawo, United States, and Xu Yifan (11), China, def. Liang Chen and Yang Zhaoxuan, China, 6-2, 6-0.

Mixed

Second Round

Martina Hinge, Switzerland, and Leander Paes, India, def. Casey Dellacqua and Matt Reid, Australia, 6-2, 6-3.
Abigail Spears, United States, and Juan Sebastian Cabal, Colombia, def. Irina-Camelia Begu and Horia Tecau, Romania, 6-4, 6-3.

Family, fans mourn for Yordano Ventura

By Ezequiel Abiu Lopez
Associated Press

LAS TERRENAS, Dominican Republic — Dozens of children wearing blue T-shirts with the name "Ventura" emblazoned on the back gathered around a coastal home on Monday to pay their respects to their idol: Kansas City Royals pitcher Yordano Ventura.

He died Sunday in a car crash in his native Dominican Republic, where he was known for practicing with his former youth baseball team every time he visited the Caribbean country, said Silvano Santos, who coached Ventura from age 7 to 14.

"He was an inspiration to every kid," Santos told The Associated Press, recalling how Ventura took time to meet with members of the Kelly youth team that he once played for and gave them gifts, including uniform T-shirts.

The children talked quietly among themselves as they sat in the patio of the house Ventura bought after signing with the Royals. Inside, friends, family and admirers gathered around his coffin and tried to console Ventura's mother.

"This is very painful for me because he was such a great baseball player," said his nephew, Yonfer Ventura, an 11-year-old member of the youth team.

Ventura was born in the town of Samana on June 3, 1991, and quit school at 14. He was working on a construction crew to support his family when he heard about a baseball tryout, which led to a spot in the local Royals' academy. The right-handed wound up pitching his entire career for the Royals, going 38-31 with a 3.89 ERA.

The mayor of the Dominican town of Las Terrenas declared a two-day mourning period for the 25-year-old player, who died on a highway about 40 miles (70 kilometers) northwest of the capital of Santo Domingo.

Authorities have not determined what caused the accident but suspect speeding. Ventura was driving by himself in a vehicle he had imported from Florida last October after making some modifications to it.

Angela Martinez, mother to Ventura's only daughter, said the player wasn't known for speeding because he was affected by the 2014 death of his friend, former St. Louis Cardinal outfielder Oscar Taveras, who crashed at 22 in his hometown of Puerto Plata.

"I always told him to be careful," said Martinez, who recalled Ventura as intense and very cheerful.

However, Santos, his former coach, said Ventura owned several motorcycles and liked to race.

"That was his weakness: racing," he said. "It was his hobby."

The Dominican Republic has the highest traffic-related death rate in the Western Hemisphere with nearly 30 deaths per 100,000 people. Four current or former major league players have died in traffic accidents here in recent years, including Andy Marte, a 33-year-old infielder who also was killed Sunday. He had played in the Major Leagues from 2005-2010 with Atlanta and Cleveland and returned in 2014 with Arizona.

Authorities said Marte died when the Mercedes Benz he was driving hit a house along a road between San Francisco de Macoris and Pimentel, about 95 miles (150 kilometers) north of the capital.



Associated Press

Friends and relatives attend a wake for the late Kansas City Royals pitcher Yordano Ventura, in Las Terrenas, Dominican Republic, on Monday. Ventura and former major leaguer Andy Marte died in separate traffic accidents early Sunday in their native Dominican Republic.

Clijsters, Roddick joining International Tennis Hall of Fame

Associated Press

NEWPORT, R.I. — Kim Clijsters and Andy Roddick have been elected to the International Tennis Hall of Fame.

Both were briefly ranked No. 1 and won the U.S. Open. Clijsters, a Belgian, won a total of four Grand Slam singles titles — the U.S. Open in 2005, 2009 and 2010, and the Australian Open in 2011 -- along with two major doubles titles.

Roddick's 2003 U.S. Open championship makes him the most recent American man to win a Grand Slam singles trophy.

Also in the Class of 2017 announced by the hall on Monday: wheelchair tennis player Monique Kalkman-van den Bosch, tennis historian and journalist Steve Flink, and the late instructor Vic Braden.

Roddick, Kalkman-van den Bosch and Flink were scheduled to participate in a ceremony at the Australian Open today.

The full class will be inducted at the hall on July 22.

AP source: Rangers, James Loney agree to minor league deal

By Schulyer Dixon
Associated Press

ARLINGTON — The Texas Rangers and free agent first baseman James Loney have agreed to a minor league contract, a person familiar with the deal said Monday.



Loney

Loney will join several others vying for time at first base for the Rangers after Mitch Moreland agreed to a deal with Boston and Prince Fielder was forced to retire because of a neck injury. The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the deal hasn't been announced.

If the left-handed Loney makes the major league roster out of spring training, the Rangers will be his fourth team since 2012 after the 32-year-old spent his first seven-plus seasons with the Los Angeles Dodgers.

A first-round pick by the Dodgers in 2002, Loney is a career .284 hitter with 108 home runs and 669 RBIs in 1,443 games. He hit .265 in 100 games with the New York Mets last season.

Jurickson Profar, Joey Gallo, Ryan Rua and five-time All-Star outfielder Josh Hamilton are the other current first base candidates for Texas.

Hamilton, trying to come back from three surgeries on his left knee since last playing in 2015, is on a minor league deal as well.

Loney had career highs in average (.331) and home runs (15) in 96 games with the Dodgers in 2007. Five years later, he was part of the nine-player trade with Boston that sent Adrian Gonzalez, Josh Beckett and Carl Crawford to the Dodgers.

After signing with Tampa Bay as a free agent, Loney hit .299 with 13 homers and 75 RBIs in 2013. Loney was released by the Rays before the start of last season.

Baseball hitting, pitching sapped by jet lag

By Malcolm Ritter
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Researchers say they've documented an unseen drag on major league baseball players that can wipe out home field advantage, make pitchers give up more home runs, and take some punch out of a team's bats.

The culprit: jet lag.

Travelers are well aware of the fatigue, poor sleep and other effects that can descend like a fog when their body clocks are out of sync with their surroundings. The new work adds to previous suggestions that professional athletes are no different.

Dr. Ravi Allada of Northwestern University said he and his colleagues wanted to study the effects of body clock disruptions on human performance. So they chose baseball, a game with plenty of performance measures gathered from hundreds of games a year, played by people who get little chance to settle in to new time zones when they travel.

They looked for jet lag's effects by analyzing 20 years' worth of Major League Baseball data. They found 4,919 instances of a team taking the field after crossing two or three time zones but without enough time to adjust. People generally need a day of adjustment for each time zone crossed.

Their analysis was released Monday by the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

Results of the new study generally showed that traveling eastward was more disruptive than going west, a known feature of jet lag. A surprise, though, was that home teams seemed to suffer its effects more than visiting teams did.

Among the findings:

■ Over all the games in the 20 years, teams won about 54 percent of games played at home, showing a home field advantage of 4 percent. But that edge was obliterated when home teams that were jet-lagged from traveling eastward played teams with no apparent jet lag — an apparent result of seemingly small declines in performance.

■ After traveling eastward, jet-lagged home teams hit fewer doubles and triples, stole fewer bases and grounded into more double plays than when they weren't affected. The impact on doubles was about one fewer per every seven games, while the other effects were smaller.

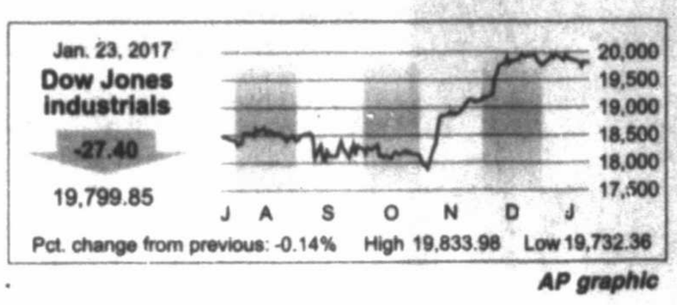
■ Eastward travel was linked to pitchers allowing more home runs, both at home and away. The difference came to roughly one home run every 10 games.

The researchers suggested starting pitchers might get time to overcome jet lag if they are sent a few days ahead of the team to distant away games. Many teams send them ahead now on long flights, but it's usually only a few hours early, to avoid overnight travel.

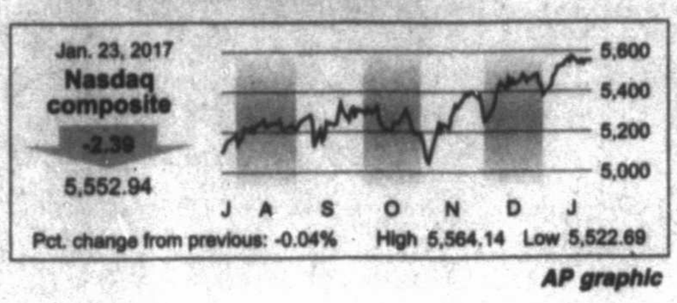
The researchers said they had no explanation for why teams were more hampered by jet lag at home than when they played elsewhere.

BUSINESS & OIL

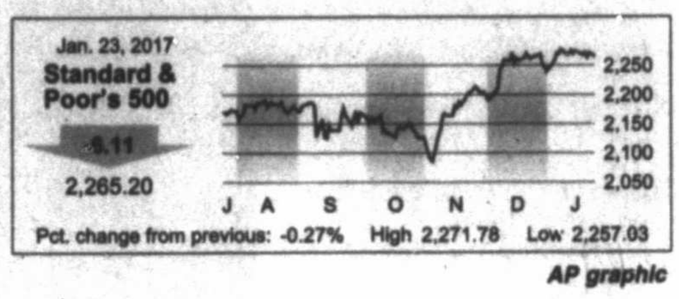
A DAY ON WALL STREET



AP graphic



AP graphic



AP graphic

OIL PRICES

FUTURES

Monday: $52.75
Previous: $52.42

POSTED

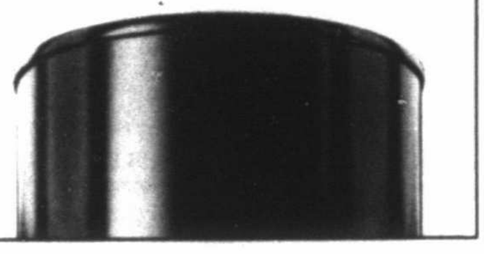
Monday: $49.00
Previous: $49.00

WEST TEXAS SOUR

Monday: $44.55
Previous: $44.55

NATURAL GAS

Monday: $3.243
Previous: $3.204



Targa acquires Permian assets for up to $1.5 billion

Houston Chronicle

Houston-based Targa Resources Corp. said Monday it will buy pipeline assets in the increasingly active Permian Basin for up to $1.5 billion.

Targa is acquiring pipeline systems from Denver-based Outrigger Energy within the Permian's Delaware and Midland basins. Targa will pay a minimum of an initial $565 million that could grow up to $1.5 billion based on performance measures by the end of February 2019.

"The acquisition of the Outrigger Permian assets complements our existing gas gathering and processing footprint very nicely, while expanding our reach deeper into both the Delaware and Midland Basins," Targa CEO Joe Bob Perkins said in the announcement, noting that the region has decades of drilling inventory in prolific oil and gas areas.

The Outrigger Delaware gas gathering and processing and crude gathering assets are located in Loving, Winkler and Ward counties that are already supported by contracts for an average of 14 years. Targa plans to connect the network to its existing Sand Hills system, extending Targa's Permian Basin footprint across the Delaware and Midland Basins. Targa also plans to evaluate future connections to its Versado system. Currently, there's 40,000 barrels per day of crude gathering capacity on the Outrigger Delaware system.

The Outrigger Midland gas gathering and processing and crude gathering assets are located in Howard, Martin and Borden counties. Targa expects to connect the Outrigger Midland assets to its WestTX system in Martin County.

The deal is expected to close by the end of March.

Stocks close lower

Energy companies led U.S. stock indexes slightly lower Monday as the price of crude oil fell.

Real estate, phone companies and other high-dividend stocks did better than the rest of the market as bond yields headed lower, making those sectors more appealing to investors seeking income.

Investors focused on the latest batch of company earnings and deal news. They also had their eye on Washington, where President Donald Trump reaffirmed plans to slash regulations on businesses and tax foreign goods entering the country.

"There was that huge rally post-election and things really were running on optimism," said Lisa Kopp, head of traditional investments at U.S. Bank Wealth Management. "What you're seeing now is people coming back to the idea that the policies aren't exactly clear ... and (Trump's) ability to actually push everything through exactly the way he wants is uncertain."

The Dow Jones industrial average fell 27.40 points, or 0.1 percent, to 19,799.85. The Standard & Poor's 500 index slid 6.11 points, or 0.3 percent, to 2,265.20.

Metal prices rise

Among metals, the price of gold gained $10.70, or 0.9 percent, to $1,215.60 an ounce. Silver added 15 cents, or 0.9 percent, to $17.19 an ounce. Copper rose 2 cents to $2.65 a pound..

NYSE

MOST ACTIVE ($1 OR MORE)

Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
VanEGold	704384	23.81	+.89
S&P500ETF	643094	226.15	-.59
BkofAm	605491	22.56	-.08
GenElec	561883	29.75	-.78
DrGBull s	551253	10.98	+.84

GAINERS ($2 OR MORE)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
ChesEn pfD	67.50	+11.70	+21.0
BrkfCda g	23.42	+3.79	+19.3
Textainer	11.65	+1.30	+12.6
NQ Mobile	3.69	+.41	+12.5
GencoSh rs	11.82	+1.09	+10.2

LOSERS ($2 OR MORE)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
DBCmdyS	44.00	-10.30	-19.0
PrUShtMex	25.00	-5.15	-17.1
BioAmber	5.26	-.66	-11.1
Avanza	8.49	-.96	-10.2
TRC Cos	9.75	-1.10	-10.1

DIARY

Advanced	1,606
Declined	1,350
Unchanged	122
Total issues	3,078
New Highs	85
New Lows	15
Volume	3,050,240,951

AMEX

MOST ACTIVE ($1 OR MORE)

Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
NDynMin g	138688	2.96	+.33
Goldstar	80486	1.44	+.06
NwGold g	58292	4.31	+.12
B2gold g	40306	2.94	+.11
UranumEn	36800	1.59	+.05

GAINERS ($2 OR MORE)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
InfuSystem	2.40	+.30	+14.3
GoldStdV g	2.52	+.28	+12.5
NDynMin g	2.96	+.33	+12.5
NthnO&G	3.90	+.40	+11.4
TelInstEl	4.88	+.48	+10.8

LOSERS ($2 OR MORE)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
UniqueFn	11.40	-1.99	-14.9
AltsrcAst	53.00	-8.95	-12.4
Skyline	10.33	-1.39	-11.9
EnviEn rs	3.35	-.20	-5.6
Earthstone	12.96	-.74	-5.4

DIARY

Advanced	185
Declined	159
Unchanged	23
Total issues	367
New Highs	12
New Lows	5
Volume	112,220,771

NASDAQ

MOST ACTIVE ($1 OR MORE)

Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
Qualcom	914060	54.88	-8.00
intel	271761	36.77	-.17
MannusPh	260212	1.37	+.21
CSX	224124	45.99	+1.66
Microsoft	215062	62.96	+.22

GAINERS ($2 OR MORE)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
ViewRay n	4.97	+.77	+18.3
HeliMAn n	3.95	+.49	+14.2
Magal	6.60	+.79	+13.6
GigaMda rs	3.52	+.41	+13.2
Chimerix	5.54	+.64	+13.1

LOSERS ($2 OR MORE)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
DryShp rs	5.40	-2.68	-33.2
AvatarNet rs	10.35	-3.15	-23.3
GenesTc n	7.50	-1.32	-14.9
AsiaPWire	2.60	-.40	-13.3
Qualcom	54.88	-8.00	-12.7

DIARY

Advanced	1,156
Declined	1,655
Unchanged	224
Total issues	3,035
New Highs	103
New Lows	44
Volume	1,587,429,649

Yahoo's 4Q shows modest strides amid security breach fallout

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Yahoo's financial performance improved slightly during the fourth quarter while the company dealt with the fallout from massive security breaches that have jeopardized the $4.8 billion sale of its internet operations to Verizon Communications.

The fourth-quarter report released Monday provided the latest snapshot of a shrinking company that has been steadily losing ground in the digital advertising market that generates most of its revenue. Yahoo also disclosed the closure of the Verizon deal will be delayed for up to three months.

Although cost-cutting helped Yahoo bounce back from a loss during the same time in the previous year, the company's net revenue slipped yet again to extend a downturn that has lasted through most of CEO Marissa Mayer's four-and-half-year tenure. In a sign of modest progress, Yahoo's revenue fell 4 percent after subtracting ad commissions, snapping a streak of four consecutive quarters of double-digit declines.

Yahoo's long-running slump culminated in the company's agreement last summer to sell its email service, websites and mobile applications to Verizon.

But after striking the Verizon deal, Yahoo revealed that it had been hit by two separate hacking attacks that stole the email addresses, birth dates, answers to security questions, and other personal information from more than 1 billion user accounts. The break-ins occurred in 2013 and 2014, raising further questions about Yahoo's security controls and the timing of its disclosures.

The Securities and Exchange Commission has opened an investigation into whether Yahoo should have announced the security breaches sooner than it did, according to a report in The Wall Street Journal that cited unidentified people familiar with the matter.

The SEC declined to comment. Yahoo pointed to an SEC filing in November that acknowledged the company is cooperating with various government agencies, including the SEC, that are seeking information and documents pertaining to the breaches.

Verizon has been doing its own review to determine whether it should re-negotiate the sales price or cancel the deal entirely on the premise that the news of the security breaches will cause many people to become leery of using Yahoo's email and other services in the future. A downturn in traffic could make it more difficult for Verizon to sell ads.

Mayer said user engagement has remained stable without providing specific numbers in a statement accompanying the fourth-quarter results.

Even so, wrapping things up with Verizon is going to take longer than Yahoo had hoped. Instead of closing the deal by the end of March as originally planned, Yahoo predicted it will now be completed at some point from April 1 through June 30.

"The opportunities ahead with Verizon look bright," Mayer said.

MIDLAND STOCKS

Midland-Headquartered Publicly Traded Companies

Clayton Williams Energy (CWEI)
Closing Price $145.46 Down 1.39

Cóncho Resources (CXO)
Closing Price $135.99 Down 0.16

Dawson Geophysical (DWSN)
Closing Price $7.95 Down 0.03

Diamondback Energy (FANG)
Closing Price $102.19 Down 0.92

Legacy Reserves (LGCY)
Closing Price $2.40 Down 0.10

Mexco Energy (MXC)
Closing Price $5.04 Down 0.06

Natural Gas Services Group (NGS)
Closing Price $28.85 Down 0.40

RSP Permian (RSPP)
Closing Price $42.25 Down 0.47

Ring Energy (REI)
Closing Price $13.13 Down 0.12

Viper Energy Partners (VNOM)
Closing Price $15.51 Down 0.34

HOW STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST FARED

Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	YTD %Chg
AK Steel		27	9.29	-.23	9.0
AT&T Inc	1.96	16	42.00	-.55	-1.2
Abraxas			2.52	+.01	-1.9
AdaDvsEq	.92e	...	13.00	...	+2.3
AMD			9.91	+.16	12.6
Alibaba		45	98.41	+2.35	+12.1
AlonUSA	.60		11.75	+.16	+3.3
AlpAlerMLP	1.35e		12.69	-.01	+.7
Amgen	**4.60f**	**14**	**152.72**	**-1.95**	**+4.5**
Anadarko	**.20**	**...**	**59.86**	**-.17**	**+.2**
Apache	**1.00**	**...**	**60.77**	**-1.04**	**-4.3**
Apple Inc	2.28	15	120.08	+.08	+3.7
ApldMatl	**.40**	**20**	**33.75**	**-.09**	**+4.6**
Archrock	.48		14.65		+11.0
ATMOS	**1.68**	**22**	**74.39**	**-.32**	**+.3**
AutoData	2.28	28	102.20	-1.04	-.6
BP PLC	**2.40a**	**...**	**36.62**	**-.22**	**-2.0**
BakrHu	.68		61.42	-.56	-5.5
BcoBrad s	.43e		10.25	+.35	+17.8
BkofAm	.30f	18	22.56	-.08	+2.1
B rPVxST rs			20.50	-.21	-19.6
BaringsCp s	1.20		15.23	-.07	-1.6
BarrickG	.08	41	17.82	+.71	+11.5
BasicEnS			45		
BerkHa A	**...**	**16238100.05**	**-2179.95**		**-2.5**
BlkHillsCp	**1.68**	**22**	**61.71**	**+.16**	**+.6**
BrMySq	**1.56f**	**35**	**50.00**	**+.77**	**-14.4**
BrownFA s	**...**	**29**	**46.71**	**+.63**	**+1.0**
BrownFB s	**...**	**...**	**45.45**	**+.43**	**+1.2**
CSX	.72	25	45.99	+1.66	+28.0
CVS Health	1.70f	14	81.25	-.31	+3.0
Caterpillar	3.08	26	94.46	-.12	+1.9
Celestic g		10	12.11	+.03	+2.2
Cemex	.29f		8.83	-.01	+10.0
CntryLink	2.16	11	25.81	+.25	+8.5
ChesEng			6.68	-.01	-4.8
Chevron	**4.28**	**...**	**115.39**	**-.21**	**-2.0**
Chicos	.32	29	13.15	-.06	-8.6
Cimarex	.32	...	137.18	-.80	+.9
Cisco	1.04	14	30.27	+.17	+.2
Citigroup	.64	12	55.68	-.43	-6.3
ClayEng	**...**	**...**	**145.46**	**-1.39**	**+22.0**
CocaCola	**1.40**	**25**	**41.43**	**+.11**	**-.1**
ColgPalm	**1.56**	**24**	**67.55**	**-.40**	**+3.2**

Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	YTD %Chg
ConAgra	**.80**	**21**	**38.89**	**-.24**	**-1.7**
ConchoRes	**...**	**...**	**135.99**	**-.16**	**+2.6**
ConocoPhil	**1.00**	**...**	**49.94**	**-.79**	**-.4**
CrackerB	4.60	21	157.63	-.26	-5.6
CSVInvNG			3.91	-.21	+29.0
CSVelVST			57.72	+.47	+23.5
CSVixSh rs			6.10	-.11	-35.9
CrosTim	**1.06e**	**13**	**18.23**	**-.02**	**+1.4**
DCP Mid	3.12	17	36.92	-.58	3.8
DTE	2.92	22	98.03	-.37	-.5
Dataram rs			1.36	-.03	-38.2
DevonE	**.24**	**...**	**45.63**	**-.63**	**-.1**
DrGlMBr rs			18.23	-1.43	-48.0
DrGMBll s			9.17	+.61	+64.3
DrGBull s			10.98	+.84	+43.7
Disney	**1.56f**	**19**	**107.12**	**-.54**	**+2.8**
DowChm	**1.84**	**19**	**57.14**	**-.24**	**-.1**
DryShp rs		1	5.40	-2.68	-81.7
EOG Resrc	**.67**	**...**	**103.46**	**-2.01**	**+2.3**
EmpDist	**1.04**	**23**	**34.09**	**...**	**...**
Energen	.08		54.55	-.85	-5.4
EngyTsfr	4.22		35.75	-.01	-.2
EnPro	**.84**	**49**	**64.92**	**-.74**	**-3.6**
EntProdPt	1.64	21	27.84	-.01	+3.0
Ericsson	.45e		5.81	-.06	-.3
ExxonMbl	**3.00**	**34**	**84.97**	**-.92**	**-5.9**
Facebook		36	128.93	+1.89	+12.1
FiatChrys			10.28	+.27	+12.7
FordM	.60a	6	12.31	-.05	+1.5
FrptMcM			15.72	+.21	+19.2
GATX	**1.80**	**10**	**59.19**	**-.26**	**-3.9**
GasMatT	**.94e**	**...**	**7.59**	**+.06**	**+4.8**
GAInv	**1.15e**	**...**	**32.02**	**-.03**	**+2.7**
GenElec	**.96f**	**24**	**29.75**	**-.78**	**-5.9**
GenMotors	1.52	6	36.65	-.36	+5.2
GtPlainEn	**1.10f**	**16**	**25.92**	**-.32**	**-1.6**
HP Inc	.50	9	14.67	-.06	-1.1
Halliburtn	**.72**	**...**	**54.80**	**-1.65**	**+1.3**
iShBrazil	1.03e		37.67	+.99	+13.0
iShChinaLC	.76e		36.47	+.18	+5.1
iShEMkts	.84e		36.96	+.54	+5.6
iSh20 yrT	3.05		121.14	+1.20	+1.7
iS Eafe	1.70e		59.54	+.15	+3.1
iShiBxHYB	5.09		87.20	...	+.8

Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	YTD %Chg
iShR2K	1.77e	...	133.88	-.56	-.7
Intel	**1.04**	**16**	**36.77**	**-.17**	**+1.4**
InterDig	1.20	15	89.05	-.15	-2.5
iShCorEM	1.09e	...	44.84	+.66	+5.8
ItauUnibH	.32e	...	12.00	+.48	+16.8
JPMorgCh	1.92	14	83.71	+.04	-3.0
JohnJn	**3.20**	**17**	**113.91**	**-.24**	**-1.1**
KimbClk	**3.68**	**20**	**116.98**	**+.76**	**+2.5**
KindMorg	.50	71	22.14	.35	+6.9
Kinross g			3.75	+.16	+20.6
LegacyRes	.60m		2.40	-.10	+13.2
Lubys	**...**	**...**	**5.91**	**+.03**	**-8.6**
MarinusPh			1.37	+.21	+35.6
McDnlds	3.76f	23	121.38	-.88	-.3
Merux	1.88f	16	61.81	-.72	+5.0
MerltMed	**...**	**33**	**25.40**	**-.20**	**-4.2**
MexcoEn			5.04	-.06	+.9
MicronT			21.89	-.07	-.1
Microsoft	1.56f	26	62.96	+.22	+1.3
MorgStan	.80	14	41.96	-.63	-.7
Nabors	.24	...	17.01	-.57	+3.7
NatGrid	**3.35e**	**...**	**58.72**	**+.39**	**+.7**
NOilVarco	.20	21	38.43	-.65	+2.6
NDynMn g			2.96	+.33	+43.0
NSTFI3	**.55a**	**...**	**14.28**	**+.08**	**+.8**
NTXGI	**.65**	**...**	**13.94**	**+.17**	**+1.6**
OcciPet	**3.04f**	**...**	**67.99**	**-.80**	**-4.5**
Oracle	.60	19	39.68	-.19	+3.6
PerTech	**...**	**18**	**6.01**	**-.01**	**+7.7**
PerkDri	**...**	**...**	**2.65**	**...**	**+1.9**
PetMUTI	**.08**	**8**	**26.42**	**-1.16**	**-1.8**
Penney			6.85		-17.6
PennaRE	**.84**	**76**	**18.20**	**+.08**	**-6.0**
Prmian	.41e	23	8.30	-.03	+7.7
Petrobras		...	11.33	+.13	+12.1
Pfizer	**1.28f**	**13**	**31.46**	**-.31**	**-3.1**
PioNtrl	.08	...	182.90	-2.07	+1.6
PlainsAAP	**2.20**	**28**	**31.17**	**+.73**	**-3.5**
PwShs QQQ	1.52e	...	123.35	+.10	+4.1
Praxair	**3.00**	**22**	**116.68**	**-.71**	**-.4**
PrmSgy	**...**	**...**	**66.50**	**...**	**+4.6**
PUVixST rs			27.95	-.45	...
PrestiGam	**2.68**	**23**	**66.66**	**-.49**	**+8.4**
Qualcom	2.12	14	54.88	-8.00	-15.8
RangeRs	.08	...	34.14	-.40	-.8

Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	YTD %Chg
RegionsFn	.28f	16	13.91	-.13	-3.1
ReynAm s	1.84f	27	58.88	+.17	+5.1
RiteAid	...	63	6.90	-.56	-16.3
Rowan	.40	6	19.28	-.26	+2.1
RoyDShllA	3.76	83	54.76	-.11	+.7
SpdrDJIA	3.99e	...	197.78	-.18	+.1
S&P500ETF	4.13e	...	226.15	-.59	+1.2
SabrvR	1.86e	18	37.80	+.15	+7.5
SanderFm	**.96**	**11**	**90.93**	**+.20**	**-3.5**
Schlmbrg	2.00	73	84.27	-2.22	+.4
SeadrillLtd	...	2	2.85	-.22	-16.4
SiriusXM	.01p	38	4.59	...	+3.1
Smucker	3.00f	17	133.49	-.08	+4.2
SwstnEngy	...	...	9.19	-.22	-15.1
Sprint	...	...	9.18	+.25	+9.0
SP CnSt	1.28e	...	52.56	-.02	+1.6
SP Engy	2.04e	...	73.75	-.79	-2.1
SPDR Fncl	.46e	...	23.00	-.15	-1.1
SP Inds	1.19e	...	63.09	-.35	+1.4
SunocoLog	2.04f	51	23.97	+.01	-.2
TeleFEsp	**1.03e**	**...**	**9.83**	**-.04**	**+4.7**
Tesoro	2.20	10	80.43	-.05	-8.0
TevaPhrm	1.36e	11	32.71	-.52	-9.8
3M Co	4.44	22	178.51	+.02	...
Torchmark	**.56**	**17**	**73.59**	**-.40**	**-.2**
Transocn	...	...	14.76	-.55	+.1

Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	YTD %Chg
TriContl	**.82e**	**...**	**22.34**	**+.04**	**+1.3**
Twitter	...	...	16.61	+.03	+1.9
TylerTech	**...**	**62**	**147.33**	**-1.49**	**+3.2**
UBSI	**1.32**	**22**	**43.70**	**-.45**	**-5.5**
US OilFd	...	...	11.32	-.07	-3.4
USSteel	.20	...	32.80	-.58	-.6
Vale SA	.29e	...	10.51	+.48	+37.9
Vale SA pf	.29e	...	9.93	+.53	+44.1
ValeantPh	...	16	13.99	-.74	-3.7
ValeroE	2.40	14	66.25	+.01	-3.0
VanEGold	.12e	...	23.81	+.69	+13.8
VanE JrGld	...	...	37.94	+.93	+20.3
VangSTBd	1.08e	...	79.71	+.13	+.3
VerizonCm	2.31f	15	52.41	-.31	-1.8
VulcanM	**.80**	**45**	**129.53**	**-.34**	**+3.5**
WEC Engy	2.08	20	58.39	-.11	-.4
WalgBoots	1.50	18	81.55	-.17	-1.5
WealthInt	...	...	5.29	-.13	+6.0
WellsFargo	1.52	13	54.25	-.52	-1.6
WstnRefin	1.52	24	34.83	-.06	-8.0
WhitingPet	...	...	11.92	-.22	-.8
WmsCos	.80	66	28.21	...	-9.4
XcelEngy	**1.36**	**19**	**40.81**	**-.26**	**+.3**
Xerox	**.31**	**9**	**6.89**	**-.05**	**+19.8**
Yahoo	...	...	42.40	+.35	+9.6

Can't find your favorite stocks or mutual funds listed?
Send your favorite to sdoreen@mrt.com or mmcewen@mrt.com.
We will regularly update the Permian Basin stocks list.

INDEXES

52-Week High	52-Week Low	Name	Last	Chg	Net %Chg	YTD % Chg	52-wk % Chg
19,999.63	15,450.56	Dow Jones Industrials	19,799.85	-27.40	-.14	+.19	+24.84
9,490.29	6,403.31	Dow Jones Transportation	9,138.19	-86.38	-.94	+1.04	+37.38
723.83	570.73	Dow Jones Utilities	654.98	-3.39	-.51	-.70	+12.15
11,588.45	8,937.99	NYSE Composite	11,170.63	-22.16	-.20	+1.03	+20.59
5,564.26	4,209.76	Nasdaq Composite	5,552.59	-2.39	-.04	+3.15	+22.89
2,282.10	1,810.10	S&P 500	2,265.20	-6.11	-.27	+1.18	+20.68
1,688.70	1,215.14	S&P Midcap	1,671.84	-3.84	-.23	+.88	+32.54
23,875.45	18,462.43	Wilshire 5000	23,693.00	-50.68	-.21	+1.14	+23.01
1,392.71	943.09	Russell 2000	1,347.84	-4.01	-.30	-.89	+35.14

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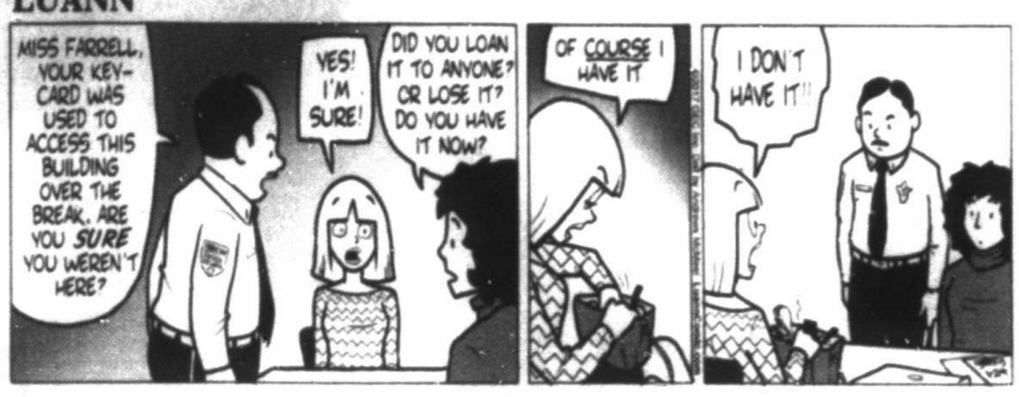
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



FUNKY WINKERBEAN



LUANN



BLONDIE



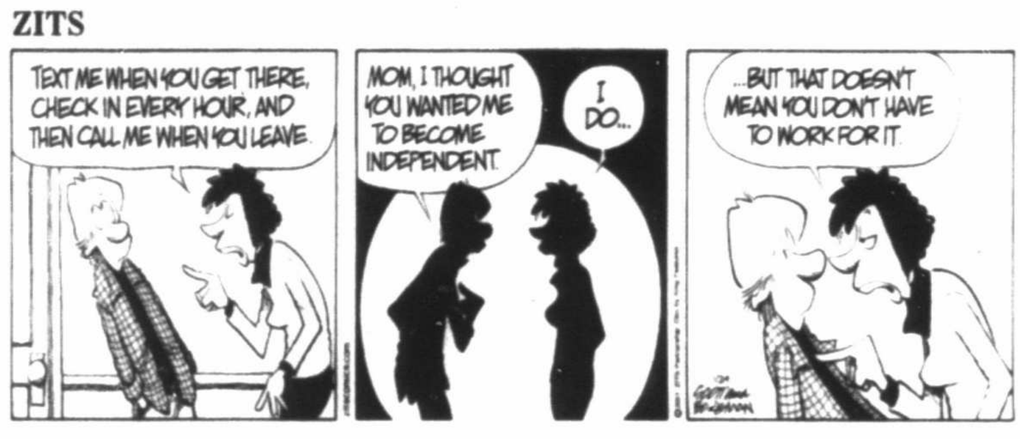
MARY WORTH



BEETLE BAILEY



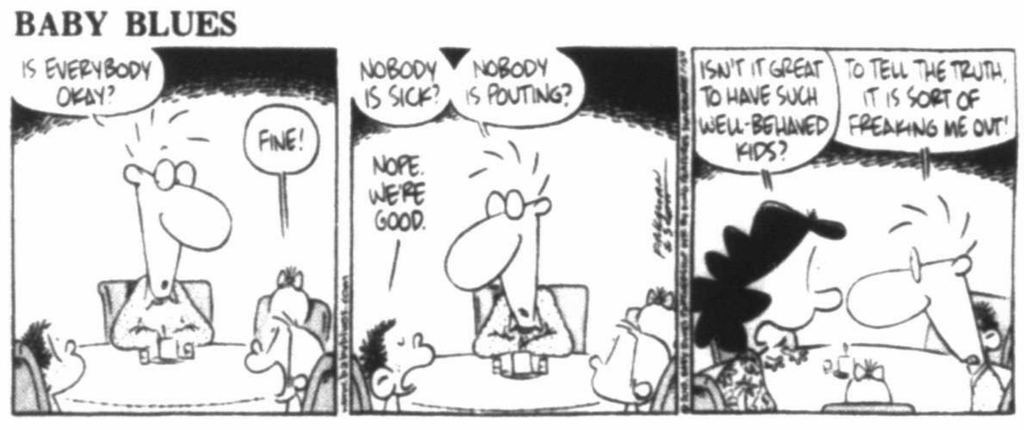
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CLASSIC PEANUTS



BABY BLUES



SHOE



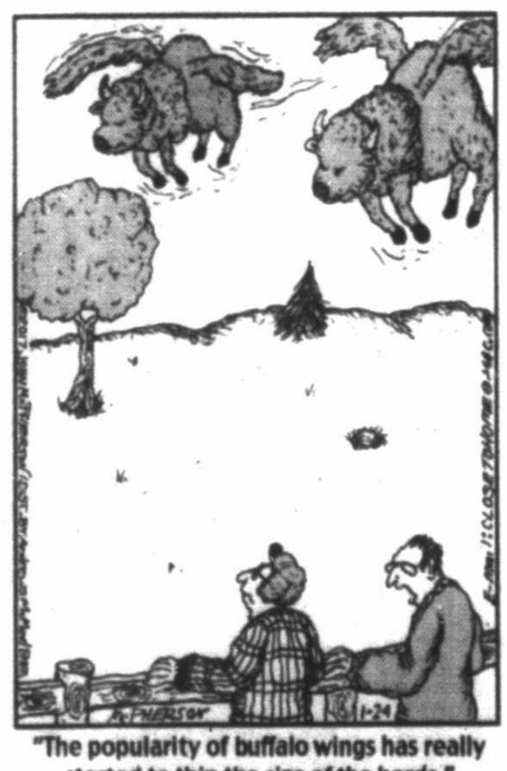
MUTTS



GARFIELD



CLOSE TO HOME



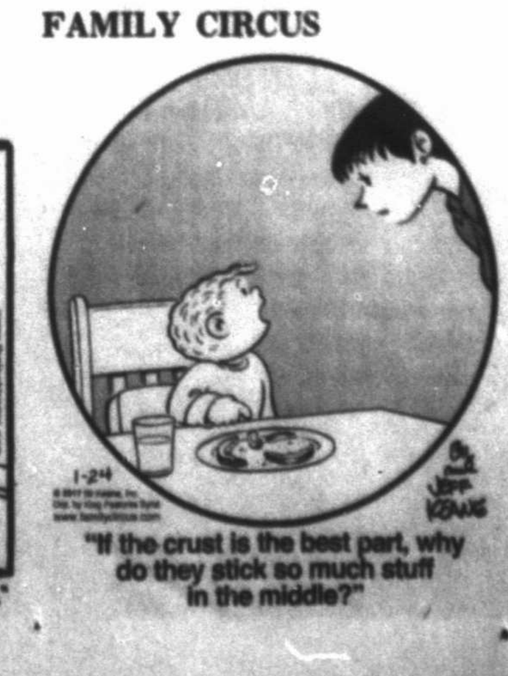
DENNIS THE MENACE



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



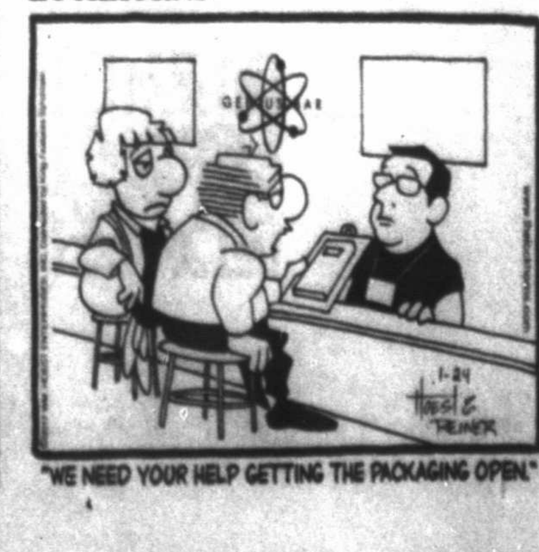
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ACCOUNTING-FINANCE

Assistant Manager

Midwest Finance

Seeking assistant manager to assist with overall operation of branch, including lending and collecting. We seek a self-starter that works well without close supervision.

Requirements: High school diploma or equivalent, Personal and reliable transportation and valid driver's license.

Apply in person at: 416 Andrews Hwy., Midland, TX 79701

Commercial Banking Opportunity

Lone Star State Bank of Midland is expanding its commercial lending staff. We have an excellent opportunity available for a **seasoned banker** experienced in oil & gas, commercial and real estate lending. Please contact Mike Davis at mdavis@lonestarwtx.com or 432-617-4717 for additional information.

Lone Star State Bank.

EDUCATION-TRAINING

Special Needs Teacher

Large Church seeking staff to teach one to two times a month in Sunday morning special needs program. Hours are 9 a.m. -12 p.m. with opportunity for additional hours through the week in other children's programs. Please contact Donna Fields at donnafields@firstmethodistmidland.com for more information or to apply.

ENERGY AND UTILITIES

A/P Specialist

Natural Gas Services Group has an opening for an A/P Specialist. Responsible for entering & closing invoices, entering new vendor information, filing checks and backup, reconciling statements and at times a back-up receptionist. This person must have 2 years' experience of A/P at a large company and working knowledge of general accounting practices. Familiarity with SYSPRO program a plus. NSGSI offers a competitive salary and benefits. Send your resume to **employment@ngsgi.com or call 432-262-2700.**

West Texas Mud Loggers Needed

Co. in business since 1953. Good benefits. Exp. Req. Send resume w/contact info. & exp. to: OFFICE@PWL-INC.COM

HEALTHCARE

LVN

LVN -Full Time needed for Addiction medical clinic. Early morning hours Medication Management, TB tests, blood draws, medical orders. Paid vacations, holidays, personal days. Routine travel between Midland and Odessa. Periodic travel to Abilene/San Angelo area required. No health insurance available. Please fax resume to 800-671-8364

HUMAN RESOURCES

Human Resources Manager

Local manufacturing company seeking professional Human Resource Manager experienced in all areas of HR management & administration including hiring, terminations, benefits, workers compensation, & related functions. Other experience including HS&E, payroll, and bilingual are a plus. Contact Palmer of Texas at 432-523-5904 P.O. Box 1069 Andrews, TX. 79714

Vessel & Tank Welders

Now hiring vessel and tank welders. Must pass drug and weld test. Apply in person at Palmer of Texas 1701 N Hwy 385 Andrews, TX 79714.

MANAGEMENT-EXECUTIVE

Assistant Managers

Panera Bread is coming to Midland, Texas and we have immediate positions open for Assistant Managers. If you have restaurant management experience, excellent communication skills and experience managing and motivating a team, Panera Bread wants to talk to you! As an employee of Panera Bread, you'll receive competitive pay, bonus program, meal discount, medical, dental and vision benefits, paid vacation, and an opportunity for growth. Send resumes to Careers@tcgtx.com. The Cain Holding Group, LLC, a Franchisee of Panera Bread is an equal opportunity employer.

OTHER JOBS

Gate Attendants needed

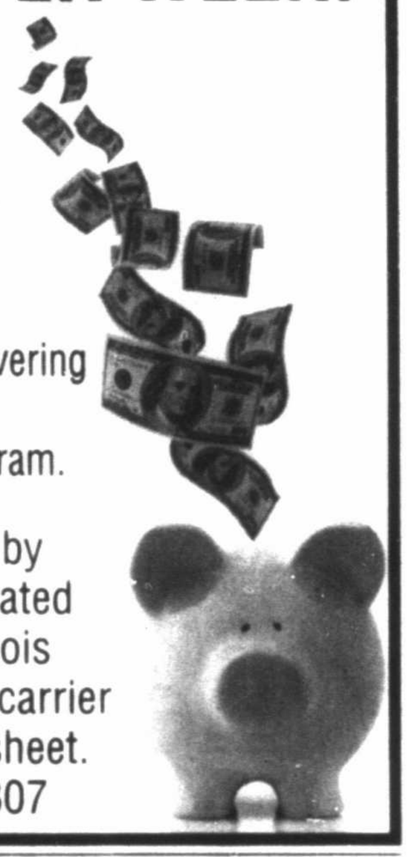
Gate Guard Services is looking for Gate Attendants in West Texas area, must have RV or Traveling trailer and must pass background. Requirements needed: Non-Commissioned license. Please call Patty for more information @ 361-949-6992.

GATE GUARD SERVICES, L.P.

EARN UP TO $500 PER WEEK!

Do you have a reliable car with insurance and a phone?? Become an independent contractor delivering the Midland Reporter-Telegram.

Please come by our office located at 201 E. Illinois and fill out a carrier information sheet. Linda 687-8807



NOW HIRING EQUIPMENT OPERATORS

Entry Level & Experienced Equipment Operators. Must have a Class A CDL License. Apply at TITAN PETROSERVICES 6100 E I-20, MIDLAND TX or submit resume online at www.titanpetroservices.com

WANTED LOCKSMITH

Starting at $12 an hour. Looking for someone who wants to make a career by becoming a locksmith. Pay will increase as you show potential. Looking for Shop and Van hands. Need a clean driving record and able to pass a drug screen. No Felonies, or class A or B misdemeanors.
APPLY IN PERSON @ 2507 W. Illinois.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Licensed Journeyman Plumber

We are accepting application for an experience. Licensed Journeyman Plumber. We offer top pay and benefits.
Come by 3106 W. Kentucky, Midland, Texas to submit a resume or fill out an application. Resumes may be faxed to 432-699-7332

RETAIL JOBS

SALES ASSOCIATE

Wood's Boots is currently hiring part time sales associates. No phone calls! If you are interested in wearing boots and jeans to work, and working with great customers, come see us at 4803 Andrews Highway & 812 West I-20

SALES JOBS

Outside Sales Rep

Midland Reporter-Telegram

The Midland Reporter-Telegram is looking for someone with excellent communication skills to provide outstanding customer service to our Retail Advertising customers. Responsibilities include prospecting new clients, working closely with new and existing clients to develop multi-media advertising campaigns that provide outstanding results, tracking sales activity, and meeting/exceeding established monthly sales goals.

Qualified candidates must be a self-starter and possess excellent communication and organizational skills, be detail oriented and assertive, excel in spelling/grammar/punctuation, excel in time management, and possess a positive attitude.

We are willing to train and offer a competitive compensation and benefits package, guaranteed commission for three months, a cell phone allowance and the opportunity to advance your career in an exciting, progressive and innovative organization in one of the fastest growing markets in Texas.

If you want to join a **GREAT TEAM** and are ready to **SUCCEED**, please send a resume to:

Chad Anderson, Advertising Sales Manager, 201 E. Illinois, Midland, TX 79701 or **cranderson@mrt.com**. No phone calls please.

Salesperson

Experienced pump salesperson needed. Excellent compensation and benefit plans provided. Please submit resume by fax to 432-570-1115 or email to bobby@basinengine.com. Applications can be filled out at 1914 S. County Rd. 1083, Midland, TX 79706

SKILLED LABOR

Experienced Dozer Operators

Hiring experienced dozer operators for oilfield dirt work.
2+ years O&G experience required. Dozer experience a plus. Pay DOE.
Health, vision, and dental insurance 100% paid.
Apply in person: 9400 S. Service Rd. Coahoma, TX
or call 432-394-4604 for more information

Field Mechanics

Basin Engine & Pump

Mechanics needed for industrial Oilfield Shop. Must be experienced working on centrifugal & positive displacement pumps. Furnish your own tools. Uniforms provided. Benefits package includes vacation, health insurance and retirement match savings. Salary depends on experience. Please submit resume by fax to 432-570-1115 or email to bobby@basinengine.com. Applications can be filled out at 1914 S. County Rd. 1083, Midland, TX 79706.

Industrial Skilled Positions

Floore Industrial Contractors, Inc. are taking applications for the following crafts for West Texas: Journeyman Electrician, Electrician Helpers, Civil Carpenters, Civil Helpers, Pipefitters, Pipe Helpers, Pipe Welders, Rig Welders and Roustabouts. You can a submit an application online at www.floreindustrialcontractors.com

TRANSPORTATION AND LOGISTICS

Class A CDL Drivers

Purity Oilfield Services, LLC. (EOE) is now hiring Class A CDL drivers with winch and/or vac truck experience. Competitive pay and excellent benefits. Please contact 432-699-8600 for more information; submit a resume at mkiker@purityoilfieldservices.com; or stop by in person to apply at 11109 West CR 46, Midland, TX 79707.

Heavy Haul Driver

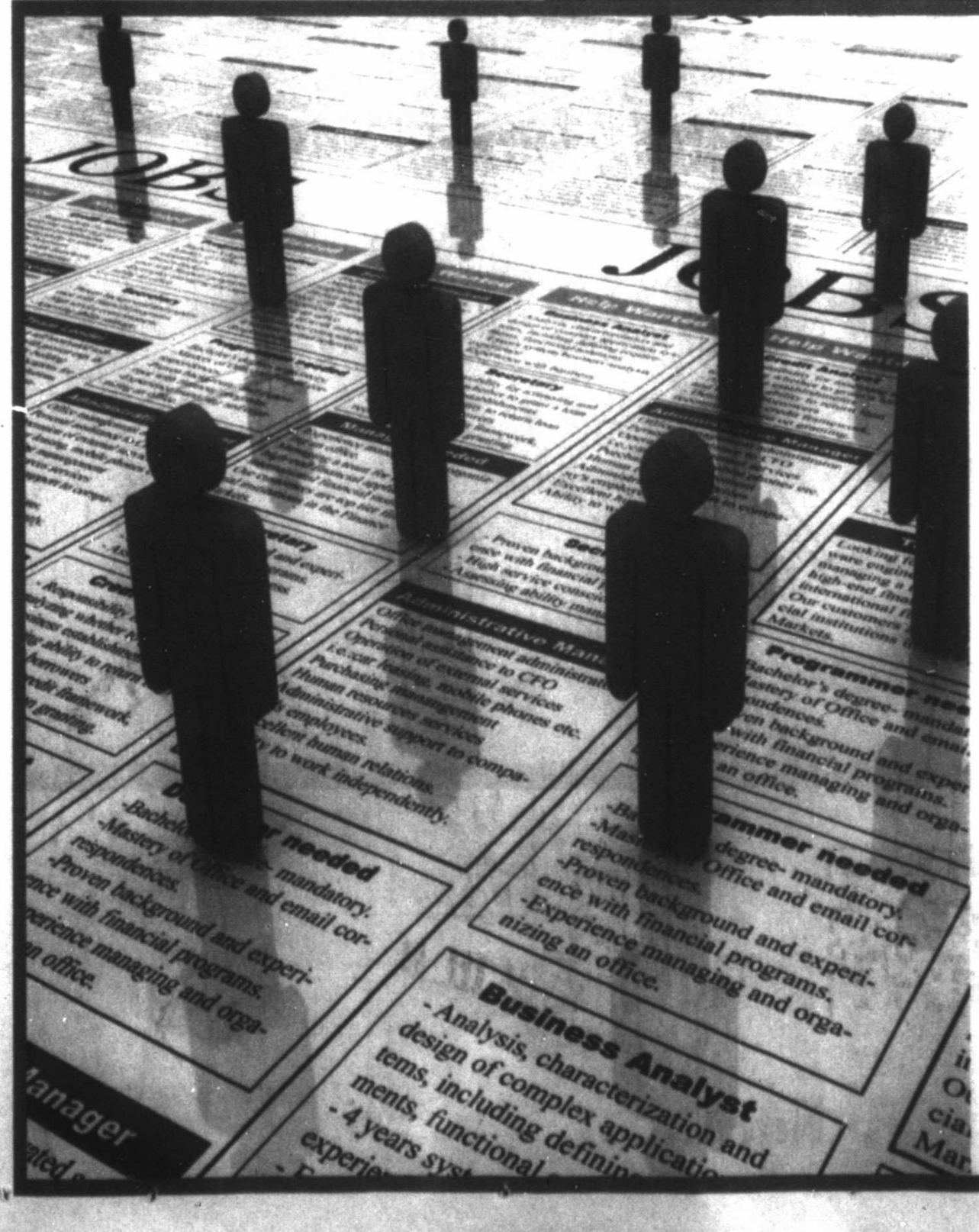
Construction Company seeking experienced heavy haul driver. Please contact Ray McFall at 501-707-4941 or ray@sbmearthmoving.com

Truck Pusher/Salesman

Truck Pusher/Salesman for a local trucking company. Must have experience, good references and ability to follow D.O.T. regulations. Please send resume' to P. O. Box 53, Midland, Texas. 79702.

Vacuum Truck Driver

Vacuum Truck Drivers needed. Midkiff Transports, Class A CDL required. Apply at 6601 FM 715, Midland, Texas.



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OF COMMUNITY

PRESENTED BY CHEVRON AND THE MIDLAND REPORTER-TELEGRAM

Do you know an outstanding Midlander?

Nominate them for **52 Faces of Community**

The 52 Faces of Community campaign allows Chevron and the Midland Reporter-Telegram to honor Midland's unsung heroes and volunteers. We all know those who go the extra mile to help the community – help us share their stories.

LOOKING FOR PEOPLE MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN:

Health & Human Services, Veterans Affairs, Kids & Family Services, Senior Health & Support, Pets and Animal Care, Corporate Citizenship, Arts, Environment, Education, Diversity, Corporate Partnership and Religious Organizations.

To nominate a Face of Community, please visit mrt.com/52Faces.

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Events and Notices

General Announcement

Mark Berryhill.com Ministering for Christ Teach the Lord's Word 1-4



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Passenger Cars

2003 PORSCHE 911. CONVERTIBLE Hard-top / Soft top. Lifetime garage. 6,800 miles. $35,000. Saddle Club. Charlie 432-570-1822.

2008 BMW 750i Series. Perfect condition. Beautiful black color. Asking $13,500. 432-770-7982.

NEW TODAY!

CADILLAC CTS 2013. 26,500 miles, silver color, excellent condition. $18,500. Call 559-6631.

CADILLAC DTS, 2007. 35K Miles. Good Condition. $7,200 OBO. 432-638-1389.

NEW TODAY!

LEXUS IS250, 2006. Diamond white exterior, tan leather interior, 168k miles. Asking $10,000. Call (210) 410-8442 for inquiries.

NEW 2016 Red Mercedes-Benz SLK 350 convertible. 950 mi. Paid $71,500 ask $59,000. 325-473-2609, San Angelo, TX.

Vans and Mini Vans

2013 Town & Country minivan, 72k miles, leather seats, free lifetime oil change, all upgrades, text 432-528-0395. se habla espanol.

Recreation Vehicles

2002 COLEMAN pop-up trailer and 2013 Crossroads Hill Country travel trailer. Call 432-260-7000 for details.

2016 PREMIER Travel Trailer, 42 foot, 2 bedroom, 3 slides, fiberglass, front kitchen, 3 A/C's, washer/dryer, electric awning, all options. No smokers. No pets. In Odessa. $30,000. Must sell! 432-438-8172.

REDUCED HARLEY DAVIDSON 2005 Road King, 13K miles. $7,500 OBO. MUST SEE! 432-697-9787 leave message.

Merchandise

Miscellaneous 4-Sale

Brand New Startrac stationary excercise bicycle. All the bells and whistles. Asking $1000 or best offer. Please call Kelly 432-556-1045.

FREON 12 WANTED
Certified buyer will pick up and pay CASH for cylinders & cases of R12 cans. (312)291-9169, sell@refrigerantfinders.com

Musical Instruments

OLD PLAYER Piano with a LARGE number of rolls, can also be played as a regular paino. 432-682-9146, 432-212-2590.

Industrial Prod-Supply

OIL FIELD yard inventory for sale. Tubing 2 3/8, 2 7/8, 3 1/2 Rods, Pipe Racks, Pump Jack & Counter Weights & Portable Testers. For inventory list call 432-683-4319. Ask for ext. 23

Classified CAN 682-6222

Real Estate Rental-Sale

Residential Rentals

Apartment Rent Unfurn

4407 CROCKETT Apt A, 2bed/1bath. $825 mo, $825 dep. 432-978-2074.

4407 CROCKETT Apt D, 2bed/1bath. $825 mo, $825 dep. 432-978-2074.

LOWEST RENT! Spacious 1 - 2 Bedroom Apartments. 432-687-4514.

Pets-Animals

Dogs

YELLOW LABRADOR Retrievers, AKC, 6 wk shots. 2 females. $800. In Alpine TX. 361-649-6764

Other Pets

FOR SALE: Two cockatiel birds, male and female. Includes expensive stand up cage for $140. Call 432-559-6422

ONE BEDROOM. electric, water, cable paid. Monthly $800 or weekly. American Realty. 432-520-7577

SPECIAL - Midland
★ Come to quiet, owner in residence, Whispering Oaks We have very nice 2 bedroom apartments available for good quality tenants at exceptionally special low rates. Some have garages, all have covered parking, paid water and basic cable. Please call 432-694-4001 ★

House Rent Furnished

FULLY FURNISHED room for rent $300 deposit, $575 month. all bills paid, pool included. Great location 432-528-0395

Residential Rentals

House Rent Unfurn

1-BR, -1 BATH, YARD, WASHER & DRYER. ALL BILLS PAID. $800.00 PER MO. 432-634-5445.

3 Bed, 2 Bath, 2 car garage, built in 2001. $900 month, rent to own. 575-937-9377

4512 PARKDALE 3 bedroom 2 bath, single carport, recently remodeled. Non smoker. 600 credit score required $25 application on anyone over 18. $1,450 month, $1,450 deposit. 1 year lease. 432-940-0920

FOR SALE or lease. Nice 2 bedroom houses. $850-$950 month. 432-694-9853.

Residential Sales

Single Family Homes

Beautiful remodeled 4Bd. 2 Ba. 2 living areas- fireplace, kitchen & dining area, nice backyard with bonus room- half bath. 2,400 sq. ft. Open house every Sunday 2-4pm until sold. 3708 Humble. $198,000. Call Debbie 683-2243

HOUSE FOR sale in Forsan, TX. 3 bedroom, 1 bath, 1,500 sq. ft. $15K cash. 469-544-9503

OWNER WILL finance 811 N. Ft. Worth, 3 bedroom, 1 bath, central heat & air. Low monthly payments $99,900 with $8,000 down. Call Annalea at 432-260-6009

Lots and Land

Acreage

GREAT INVESTMENT! Mitchell county 160 acres irrigated farm. Valley Center Pivot with 600 gallon per minute water well. Included in current USGS well camp study, released Nov. 15, 2016. 325-242-0771

Commercial

4,500 sq. ft. Dock High Warehouse. Midland Industrial Warehouse $1,125/mo. 830-388-0216

5 ACRE fenced calche yard, available for sub lease. $1,200 month. 432-631-8079

COMMERCIAL YARD/ BUILD TO SUIT FOR LEASE
5 ACRES, FENCED
2 AC CALICHED
ELECTRIC GATE
$2200/MONTH
JUST EAST OF MIDLAND
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EAST HWY 90
SHOP, 2400 sq. ft with office.
Tim Riggan
432-664-2718

Commercial

NEW CONSTRUCTION
90' x 100' Shop
1500 sq. ft. office
5 acre yard
Tim Riggan
432-664-2718

OFFICE / RETAIL space for lease.
45' X 75'
2209 N. Big Spring,
Call Matt
800-672-3911

OFFICE/ WARE-HOUSE. 3650 sq ft with 8 offices, conference room, kitchen/ breakfast area. Plus 1500 sq ft warehouse with HVAC. Fenced yard with a wash bay for vehicles. 1601 Idlewilde. $5,300/ month. 432-638-1341.

Mobile-Modular Homes

Mobile Homes Rent

1407 WCR 135, 3 bedroom 2 bath, doublewide mobile home. 1/2 acre. $600 month, deposit. No pets. American Realty, 432-520-7577

Classified CAN 682-6222

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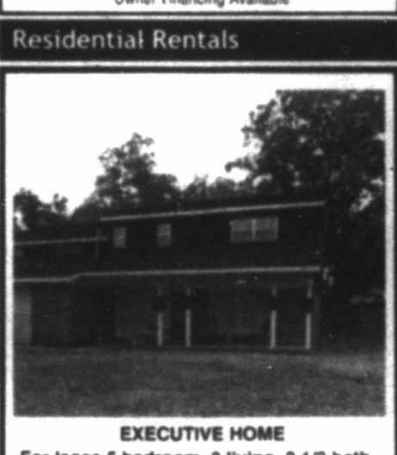
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Facility 1772: 1904 West Loop 250 N, Midland, TX 79705, (432)258-1370, February 10, 2017, 10:00 AM
Antonio Castro Unit# N734 Entertainment center couch household goods, Rachel Wescott Unit# 207 household goods.

Facility 1770: 5005 Andrews Hwy, Midland, TX 79703 (432)694-5959, February 10, 2017, 11:00 am
Jacqueline Castillo Unit # 0503 furniture, Chassity Solis Unit #0908c boxes totes plastic bags, Joshua Grier unit #0913c clothes boxes suitcases, Faith Gonzalez Unit #1136 kitchen table boxes, Justin Williamson unit #0940 household goods

Facility 1814: 2504 N Loop 250 W Midland, TX 79707 (432)-694-1111, February 10, 2017, 11:30 AM
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Level: 1 2 3 4

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit ***www.sudoku.org.uk***

5				1				3
	6	7						
				7			6	
	8				9		1	
	3	6				2	7	
	7		2	4			3	
	9		5	8				
						9	2	
3				2				7

SOLUTION TO MONDAY'S PUZZLE

6	9	1	8	7	3	4	2	5
2	8	5	4	6	9	7	3	1
4	7	3	1	5	2	8	6	9
9	4	6	7	1	5	2	8	3
5	1	2	3	4	8	9	7	6
7	3	8	2	9	6	1	5	4
3	5	4	9	8	7	6	1	2
1	2	7	6	3	4	5	9	8
8	6	9	5	2	1	3	4	7

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Matt Volz/AP

In this Dec. 14, 2016, photo Mark Thompson of Montana Resources poses for a photo outside the Horseshoe Bend Treatment Plant in Butte, Mont. Thompson says plans to treat toxic Berkeley Pit water at the treatment plant is nothing to be concerned about and that community fears about the plan are overblown.

Thousands of bird deaths draw focus on brimming toxic pit

By Matt Volz
Associated Press

BUTTE, Mont. — It was an unusual and unfortunate confluence of events: A larger-than-normal number of geese was making a later-than-normal migration over Montana when a snowstorm blew in at the wrong time and sent them soaring to the wrong place.

The throngs of white birds splashed down in a 50 billion-gallon toxic stew in a former copper mine that is part of the nation's largest Superfund site. At least 3,000 died.

Residents of this mining city say the snow goose deaths this fall were a wake-up call that raises broader questions about the site. They worry federal regulators won't ready to prevent the heavily acidic, metal-laden water from contaminating other waterways and Butte's groundwater as the pit nears capacity.

"We need to be prepared, and they're not prepared," former state lawmaker-turned-activist Fritz Daily said. "I'm talking about the environmental future of this town, I'm talking about the economic future of this town, I'm talking about the social future of this town."

The Anaconda Copper Co. mined thousands of miles of tunnels under Butte over a century, finding gold, silver, lead, zinc, manganese and especially copper, and earning the city of 30,000 the nickname "The Richest Hill on Earth." The old mine shafts started flooding when mining there ended in 1982, sending tainted water into the Berkeley Pit. It's been slowly filling ever since.

The liquid is expected to reach a critical level in 2023, and environmental officials are finalizing a plan for keeping it from polluting Butte's groundwater and Silver Bow Creek, a stream at the headwaters of the Columbia River basin.

The critical level is 5,410 feet, set by the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology as the lowest elevation in Butte's drainage system. Above that, water from the pit and flooded mines under the city could escape into Silver Bow Creek. Fifty feet higher, the pit and mine water would enter the city's groundwater.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; Atlantic Richfield, which bought Anaconda Copper in 1977; and Montana Resources, owner of an adjacent mine, negotiated a solution that relies on a water treatment plant built near the pit in 2000.

The Horseshoe Bend plant now treats more than 4 million gallons of water a day that would otherwise flow into the pit, and the plan is for it to treat another 3 million gallons a day directly from the pit starting in 2023.

The plant has never handled 7 million gallons at once, but EPA officials say there is enough time for a thorough review to ensure the contaminated water will never escape into the city's Silver Bow Creek, whose banks have yet to be cleaned of the mine waste that was dumped there for decades.

"We're going to really start digging into pilot studies and performance testing ... to determine what kind of upgrades, what kind of redundancies do we need," EPA project manager Nikia Greene said.

Atlantic Richfield and Montana Resources, which operates Horseshoe Bend, are confident the treatment plant will work as designed. Atlantic Richfield spokesman Brett Clanton said the plant received $1 million worth of upgrades in 2015, and additional improvements will begin by 2019.

Mark Thompson, Montana Resources' environmental affairs manager, compared the plan to a sewage treatment plant that continuously discharges water that meets environmental standards. "It's nothing to be worried about," he said.

The recent mass goose deaths were an anomaly, he said, and activists' attempt to tie them to a threat to Butte is "well overblown."

But community activists worry the treatment-plant option is being favored because it's the cheapest technology, not the best.

They also suspect Atlantic Richfield will seek a waiver from the EPA allowing it to discharge pit water into Silver Bow Creek that doesn't meet Montana's clean water standards.

If that happens, the creek will be devastated, and the hundreds of millions of dollars spent on cleaning waterways downstream will be erased, according to community coalition Restore Our Creek.

"When you think about the Berkeley pit water, whatever form that takes, it's going to have to go through this one mile," member Evan Barrett said of the creek running through the city. "I think the community understands this mile is critical to our future and also the future of the whole watershed."

Greene acknowledged the EPA is studying a possible waiver of the state's water quality standards, but said he could not elaborate because it is part of confidential negotiations with Atlantic Richfield.

"I'm very confident that whatever discharged water, however it's treated, will not be allowed to be discharged if it affects Silver Bow Creek," Greene said.

Perhaps the community's biggest concern is that there is no strategy for the Berkeley Pit beyond keeping the water from reaching the critical level.

Daily and the Restore Our Creek coalition members said the plan only ensures that Butte will remain a Superfund site forever. That would be unusual for a program meant to permanently clean places polluted by hazardous pollutants — clean-ups of nearly 400 sites across the nation have been completed and removed from the Superfund list as of December, according to the EPA.

The EPA's Greene could not say whether Butte will always be a Superfund site, though he said there will always be some form of operation maintenance for the treatment plant plan.

"That's a tough question," he said. "I guess Superfund is going to be there for a long time."

NOAA's new satellite sent back its first amazing images

By Brian Kahn
Climate Central

The GOES-R satellite was one of the most eagerly anticipated satellites in recent memory. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration launched it in November 2016 with the promise to revolutionize weather forecasting in the U.S.

After years of construction, a harrowing rocket launch and delicate maneuvering to put it in position 22,300 miles above the earth, the most advanced satellite NOAA has ever put in orbit has sent back its first pictures. They were worth the wait.

In a press release, NOAA said the images are the start of an age of "high-definition from the heavens." And for scientists, the images really are heaven-sent. They provide a wealth of new information and data that could help dramatically improve weather forecasts.

One image displays the prowess of GOES-16 — the name for GOES-R now that it's in orbit — in detecting different wavelengths of light. That will help researchers distinguish between different components of the atmosphere such as clouds and water vapor as well as particles from smoke, ice and volcanic ash.

Another image shows the moon over a cloudy earth captured on Jan. 15, underscoring the crisp and clear imagery that GOES-16 will be returning full time in November 2017.

And finally, there's a full Earth composite taken from GOES-16's geostationary spot above the planet.

GOES-16 provides one of the most granular views of the planet. Compared to its predecessors currently in orbit, GOES-16 returns images that are four times higher resolution and are captured in a fifth of the time.

The sensors on board also return data that provide a clearer view of winds at different heights of the atmosphere. It's the second high-resolution satellite in orbit (the other is Japan's Himawari-8) and NOAA will put a third in orbit sometime in 2018.

The more nuanced view of the atmosphere could help scientists improve forecasts and more closely monitor extreme weather events. GOES-16 launched a month after Hurricane Matthew. If the satellite had been operational then, it would have given researchers an extra tool to track and forecast the storm, particularly in places like Haiti where weather stations are incredibly sparse.

Sunday's deadly tornado outbreak in the Southeast is another area where GOES-16's advanced imaging capabilities could provide real and potentially life-saving benefits.

Climate scientists will also reap benefits from GOES-16 imagery. Being able to better track how the atmosphere functions now will help them answer what happens to it in the future as the planet continues to warm.

There are too many options to keep paying high cable bills

Dear PropellerHeads: My kids keep telling me to cut the cord. I already have a cordless phone ... what gives?

A: Well, despite your phone set-up sounding very Jetson-esque, I think they are trying to get you to move into the new-ish world of online content. While we all fear change to some extent, you should consider this one because it could save you some serious change (read: straight cash homey) in the long run.

What your progeny were referring to is a metaphorical cutting of the cable cord. For decades, TV content has been monopolized (OK, technically oligopolized, which is a new word I just made up) by a few cable providers throughout the US. The constant consolidation and high barriers to entry have allowed companies like Comcast, Verizon and Time Warner to constantly increase pricing for cable channels, while arguably not showing significant increases in the quality of the product you receive. Maybe all that money is going toward customer service (bit.ly/1pafPjT)?

OK, if you've stopped laughing at that notion (or the expected insufferable rage associated with cable company customer service calls has passed), let's look at what you can do to step into the wild world of being "cordless."

Ask the PropellerHeads

Cable providers often provide three basic services, which they encourage you to bundle: cable TV, home phone service and internet service. You get some great introductory rate and then a year or so later you're paying $150 a month for these things.

First, cut the home phone service. Chances are that you have a mobile phone. If it's meeting your needs, you can simply cut that service altogether. If you still want a home line, though, consider switching your number to a VOIP (Voice Over Internet Protocol) device in your own home (most cable companies use VOIP now anyway). Instead of paying a monthly bill, buy a VOIP box from Obi for a one-time purchase price, and port your existing number over to Google Voice (bit.ly/2bEytiQ). You eliminate a monthly bill, and still have many of the features cable companies charge extra for.

Next, let's look at what you watch. Most people have heard of Netflix, Hulu, and Amazon Prime. They are the three largest online content providers around, and cost around $9-14 per month, depending on what plan you get. Netflix and Amazon both have a bunch of great shows and movies (both new and old), as well as original content that is very highly rated (like Netflix's House of Cards). If you are a big network TV fan, but want some flexibility in your viewing time, Hulu carries all the major networks' shows, typically available the day after original airing.

Other providers like HBO, Cinemax, Showtime, and even ESPN have options for online streaming subscriptions as well. So basically, you pay only for what you want and nothing for the things you don't need (I'm looking at you, Lifetime). If you combine these services with an OTA (over the air) digital antenna, you'll catch most of what you typically watch and gain access to a lot more on demand.

What do you need for streaming? Well, the two biggest competitors are Roku (roku.com) and Amazon's Fire TV (amzn.to/2b1YPuV). Both are reasonably priced and have access to the same apps mentioned above. If you're due for a TV upgrade, many new sets are known as "Smart" TVs and offer built-in apps for the streaming services, among others.

What about internet? Sadly, that's one cord you can't cut, and the providers remain as limited as ever. One way you can try to save a little cash on that side is to consider buying your own cable modem and router (if necessary). Rather than paying $5-15 a month to rent one from the ISP, spend money one time on your own device that will cost you less in the long run.

So, don't fear change — embrace it and put it in your piggy bank!

When the PropellerHeads at Data Directions aren't busy with their IT projects, they love to answer questions on business or consumer technology. Email them to questions@asktheropellerheads.com or contact us at Data Directions, Inc. 8510 Bell Creek Road, Mechanicsville, VA 23116. Visit our website at www.asktheropreellerheads.com.

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